

Country ground drenched by flood

Herald of Free Enterprise raised in 9-hour operation

Divers search for victims on wrecked ferry

From David Sapsted, Zeebrugge

A 19-strong Anglo-Belgian team of Navy divers last night began the search for at least 73 bodies on the ferry Herald of Free Enterprise, which was prised ponderously from the sea bed yesterday.

Their search of the ferry, which is not expected to be refloated for another fortnight, is likely to take days, if not weeks. Townsend Thoresen maintain that 543 passengers and crew were on board, and of those, 409 survived, 61 bodies have been recovered and 73 are missing. Kent police insist that 133 Britons are unaccounted for.

It took less than a minute for the 7,951-tonne ship to topple on its port side on the evening of March 6. Yesterday, it took nine hours for two barges and three floating cranes to winch the tangerine and white ferry almost upright.

As the vessel appeared above the water, it became clear that not only were the bow loading doors open but also the one at the stern, apparently as a result of being damaged during the sinking. One body was hanging from a window on the port side and there were unconfirmed reports of three others floating in the water.

The task of heaving the 9,000-tonne mass through more than 90 degrees proved to be a technical operation by the Dutch salvors Smit Tak

with only early-morning mist and accumulation of sand on the bridge and a minor oil slick causing problems.

Sea conditions were ideal, with a slight south-easterly wind causing scarcely any swell as the Herald inched upright to the occasional rumble of shifting cargo. Though the paintwork was scarred,

A woman who spent nearly five days vainly seeking information about victims of the Zeebrugge disaster writes in *The Times* today of "bungling" by British officials, including the Kent police, and a "total lack of sympathy" from some of the people manning the emergency help lines. Her article, written under a pseudonym, appears on page 10.

More photographs.....18

there seemed to be little exterior damage apart from around the stern which appeared to have taken the brunt of the impact with the sea bed.

The culmination of the £4 million salvage operation proved, as expected, an unspectacular event with the massive power of the Smit Tak lifting gear making steady but imperceptible progress.

The operation began in a misty pre-dawn at 4.00am (BST) when nearly 100 salvage workers were taken by tug to the wreck site, less than a mile outside Zeebrugge harbour.

After a short delay for final checks, the winching started at

7.20am, though, apart from the grinding of machinery, there was no change in the position of the ship until high tide at 7.46am when the actual lifting began.

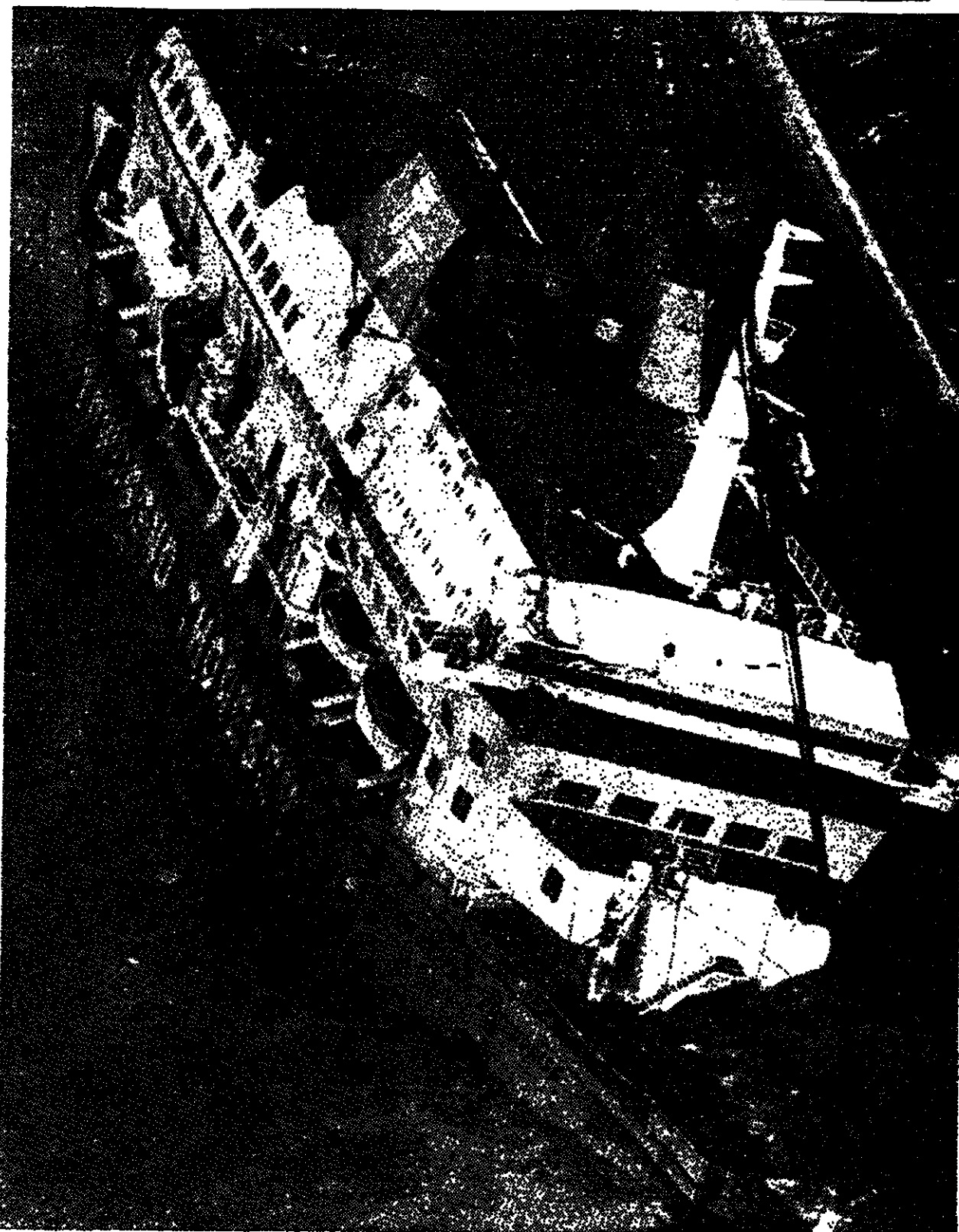
Two Smit Tak engineers could be seen on the hull of the ferry from the flotilla of tugs, Belgian navy boats and support craft that milled around the site. The two men stayed on board for the whole of the operation, helping to direct the progress of the operation.

Shortly after 9am the ship had been raised by a half-metre with the starboard, turquoise funnel breaking the surface. Just over an hour later the operation was reported to be going perfectly, the only problem being a small oil slick believed to have come from the heavy vehicles still on board.

At 11.10am, five metres of the vessel had cleared the water and the operation reached its most crucial stage with the maximum strain being exerted. Within half an hour, however, the floating crane *Norma*, whose task was to support the funnel area to prevent the superstructure collapsing, was withdrawn, her job done.

The only real snag occurred at 1.30pm when work was stopped for 20 minutes as the port side of the bridge, now clear of the water, was found to contain a considerable amount of sand which engineers feared could affect the stability of the ship.

The righting operation was completed at 4.15pm.



The Townsend Thoresen ferry Herald of Free Enterprise being lifted by two Smit Tak cranes yesterday.

Howard warns Japan on trade

From David Watts Tokyo

Mr Michael Howard, Minister for Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who is visiting Japan, gave a warning yesterday that if there were no satisfactory resolution of the Cable and Wireless affair, it could result in "an abrupt deterioration" in the trading relationship between the two countries.

He told the Foreign Minister, Mr Tadashi Kuranari, that unhappiness over the continuing trade imbalance in Britain had been "brought to boiling point" by the affair involving Cable and Wireless, which is seeking a share of the country's telecommunications business.

The Government was seriously considering what measures it could take. He confirmed measures against Japanese telecommunications exports to Britain were among matters under review.

Mr Howard's comments were directed at the man who has the power to give Cable and Wireless the go-ahead, Mr Shunjiro Karasawa, the Minister of Post and Telecommunications, whom he saw later in the day.

Mr Howard told him he was sure he would not want to be held responsible for sanctions being introduced. Mr Howard said the minister "listened very carefully to what I had to say and I have very little doubt that the message got home".

Mr Howard's visit to the ministry was a surprise.

● Sir Geoffrey Howe sought yesterday to sustain the pressure on Japan to open up its home market, making clear that Britain's EEC partners have given ready backing to a fresh look at specific measures against Tokyo.

Sir Geoffrey, opening a foreign affairs debate in the Commons, said Japan was "one of the most serious threats" to the world trading system which was jeopardized by growing protectionism.

INSIDE Ringing the media changes

With John Birt and Jeremy Isaacs bound for pastures new, commercial television has two big jobs to fill. In the new *Times* Media & Marketing pages, Bryan Appleyard — named feature writer of the year in the British Press Awards — assesses their likely replacements and the tasks they face. Pages 26, 27

IN PART 2

£1bn pub sale
The Australian Elders group, which bought Courage last year for £1.4 billion, plans to sell the 5,000-strong pub chain to the public this summer via a £1 billion stock market flotation. Page 19

England win
England moved a step closer to winning the Sharjah Trophy with a five-wicket victory over Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates. Page 39

Leonard's title
Sugar Ray Leonard made an extraordinary comeback by defeating Marvelous Marvin Hagler to win the World Boxing Council middleweight title in Las Vegas. Page 42

Portfolio

● The £4,000 prize in yesterday's *Times* Portfolio Gold competition was shared by three readers. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 23.

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IRA man's funeral is delayed again

By Richard Ford

Undertakers last night embalmed the body of a dead Provisional IRA terrorist after fighting between police and mourners led to his funeral being postponed for an unprecedented second time in 24 hours.

The body of Lawrence Marley, aged 41, was embalmed at his home as the test of will between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the Provisionals over the policing of Republican paramilitary funerals remained in a state of stalemate.

Violent confrontations between mourners and police began as the coffin, draped in the Irish Tricolour, was carried from Mr Marley's home in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast.

A large force of police officers were flanking the hearse and mourners when pushing and shoving erupted into punching and kicking.

Police hit mourners with batons as they came under a hail of stones, bottles and fencing ripped from nearby homes.

The troubles subsided after Mr Martin McGuinness, vice-president of Provisional Sinn Féin, appealed for calm.

He accused the police of laying siege to the house.

The stalemate continued until the family announced that the funeral would be postponed until today.

Last night senior figures in the Provisionals were attempting to contact leading figures in the Roman Catholic hierarchy with the aim of persuading them to become involved in the funeral.

● The Provisionals last night attempted to stretch RUC resources to the limit with a series of bomb hoaxes and hijackings of vehicles in towns across Northern Ireland.

Leading article, page 13

Baker details scheme for basic national curriculum

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The Government is planning to harness "the best minds in the country" to draw up a national curriculum in at least seven basic subjects which all children would study, Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday.

He told the Commons select committee on education that working groups in each subject would "define the essential content, skills and processes of what has to be covered and taught".

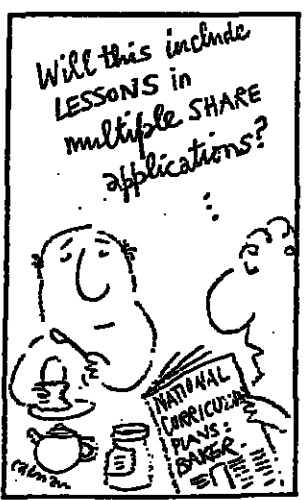
The subjects are English, maths, science, foreign languages, history, geography and technology "in its various aspects". The first two working groups, in maths and science, will be set up after Easter.

Mr Baker, who was elaborating on plans he has already outlined, said the groups would also be responsible for setting "clear and

challenging" attainment targets for pupils of varying abilities at the key ages of seven, 11 and 14. All pupils' performance in relation to those targets would be measured by tests, and assessed by their teachers.

He went on: "Parents are entitled to know what the schools seek to teach and how well they succeed in teaching it. Once they have that evidence, schools can be judged fairly."

Mr Baker said the Government intended to legislate to establish a national curriculum "early in the next Parliament". But he emphasized that his aim was not to impose his own will, but to give effect to a "broad national consensus". He promised that the working groups on each subject would "reflect the main interests within and outside the education service".



Gorbachov 'angry over Prague trip itinerary'

From Richard Bassett, Prague

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, refused "at least twice" last weekend to come to Prague because of differences over the programme arranged here for his official visit, according to a well informed source.

Mr Gorbachov is believed to be dismayed by the "old fashioned organization" the Czechoslovak Government had prepared for his visit, and angry that the Czechoslovak Government was not allowing him long meetings with all

members of the Politburo. Prague was still a city of rumour yesterday as speculation mounted on why Mr Gorbachov had not yet arrived for the three-day visit, due to have started on Monday.

Although both Soviet and Czechoslovak officials continued to announce that he will arrive "during the second half of this week", the reason given for his delay — "a slight cold" — is wearing increasingly thin.

Leading article, page 13

Authorities fear epidemic

Error of prison Aids figures

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Known carriers of Aids anti-bodies in prisons in England and Wales have been grossly under-estimated, Dr John Kilgour, director of prison medical services, said yesterday.

Dr Kilgour said that up to 2,000 prisoners could be carrying HIV anti-body positive, instead of the official cumulative total of 76 prisoners known to have been carriers since returns began in May 1985.

He said that while there

were 45 recorded carriers currently in the prison system, the reality could be 250, "give or take a hundred". People in high-risk groups, such as intravenous drug-users and homosexuals, were over-represented in prison, compared with the outside.

Dr Kilgour said that prison medical officers had been given more discretion in accommodating Aids carriers because of threats to their safety by other prisoners.

At present, between 20 and

25 prisoners classed as HIV anti-body positive were in special accommodation or hospital rooms. A similar number were housed normally.

Dr Kilgour said there was no evidence of the disease being spread within prisons, although he admitted he could not be sure that it had not.

So far there has been only one full-blown Aids case in the prison system.

Nurse discrimination, page 2

Dollar weakens before critical US meeting

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar was weak yesterday on the eve of today's key meeting in Washington of the Group of Seven industrial countries. There are fears that it could fall sharply in the absence of new commitments to stabilize its value.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, gave a warning to a congressional committee about exchange-rate stability and the dangers of a renewed dollar fall.

Mr James Baker, the US

Treasury Secretary, said in an interview with *The Times* that he was committed to February's Paris agreement to stabilize the leading exchange rates.

The dollar fell from 145.95 yen to 145.15 as Mr Baker prepared for talks with his Japanese counterpart, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa.

The pound closed unchanged at \$1.6185. The sterling index eased from 72.4 to 72.3.

US pressure, page 19

Hospital that is home to the Queen's cousins

By Tony Dawe

Officials at the Royal Earlswood Hospital yesterday strongly resisted any suggestion that the Queen's three cousins, who have been living at the mental hospital for 46 years, should be moved to grander surroundings.

Mr David Leggett, district general manager of the East Surrey Health Authority, told *The Times* during a visit to the hospital: "The three ladies are frail and elderly and happy in the environment which has been their home for the past 46 years."

"It is important that they should stay where they can achieve the greatest degree of contentment and happiness. This is their home and to suggest they could go elsewhere would certainly be traumatic."

Mr Paul Alderson, chairman of the health authority, said that the hospital, near Redhill in Surrey, provided the best possible home for the Queen's cousins. He said that it was not restricted and revealed that it was so open that the Queen's closest relative there, Miss Katherine Bowes-Lyon, was once found wandering on the main London to Brighton road nearby at the dead of night.

The cousins have seen a dramatic change in their surroundings since they were committed to the hospital in 1941. Katherine and her sister Nerissa, both daughters of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's brother, arrived at the hospital then, together with the three daughters of another close relative, Ildona, Rosemary and Elsie. Fane, Rosemary

Fane died 14 years ago and Nerissa Bowes-Lyon last year.

The cousins moved into an austere Victorian institution, opened in 1860 as an "asylum for idiots". In 1941 it was overcrowded, with poor sanitary and catering facilities, and the patients were locked up for much of the day. Most of the staff had no qualifications for nursing the mentally handicapped.

During their 46 years in the hospital, the Queen's cousins have seen numerous changes. Today they live in a large, spacious apartment. The cousins are in a bedroom with seven beds. Cuddly toys sit at the end of each bed; flowered wallpaper and light coloured wooden furniture add to the brightness of their rooms.

In the lounge they can use either television, radio or hi-fi. In the ward

are bird cages and the patients are even allowed to bring in stray pets.

Entertainments are regularly organized for them in the ornate Victorian hall, 120ft long and 40ft high, with an organ loft at one end. But the music is not just classical. A reflecting globe hanging in the middle of the hall is there for the nights when discos take over the hall.

The hospital now has 411 residents, a third of the number when the cousins first arrived. It has an annual budget of nearly £6 million, which means that each patient costs £250 a week. When the Queen's cousins were committed in 1941, an uncle — Lord Clinton — paid £125 a year for their upkeep. But contributions became unnecessary in 1948 when the National Health Service took over.

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NEWS SUMMARY

RAF 'mothballs' Nimrod aircraft

The 11 Nimrod airborne early warning aircraft rejected by the Government in favour of the American A-7 last December, are to be "mothballed" after a thorough review by the Ministry of Defence.

The Nimrod aircraft programme was cancelled by the Government after nearly £1 billion had been spent because of continuing problems with the radar, designed by GEC Avionics. But the Nimrod airframes, which had been built and converted by British Aerospace at a cost of £200 million, were "perfectly good aircraft".

But once A-7s were chosen, the RAF had to decide what to do with the Nimrods, most of which are at the air base at Waddington in Lincolnshire.

The Ministry of Defence has decided that the only solution is to put them into "mothballs", provided somewhere can be found to store them. The option to scrap them was rejected. During the review into the Nimrod episode, a number of other roles for the aircraft were examined but ruled out, mainly on cost grounds.

Quicker way out

British and other EEC nationals are to have their exit from Britain speeded by a relaxation in passport checks (Our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

All passports are now examined but, in future, the control will be selective. Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said in a parliamentary written answer yesterday that the change would be introduced soon.

Arrangements would be made to ensure that immigration officers continued to assist in the identification of people sought by the police.

Award winners

Desmond Lynam (right) was named best sports presenter as the BBC yesterday swept the Television and Radio Industries Club awards.

The BBC also won: comedy, *'Allo, 'Allo*; children's, *Blue Peter*; radio, *Today*; science-based, *The Sky at Night*; theme music, *East-Enders*; news presenter, Sue Lawley; radio personality, Derek Jameson; best BBC programme, *The Singing Detective*; BBC personality, Terry Wogan. Best ITV programme, *First Among Equals*; ITV personality, Anneka Rice.

Two die in air crash

The pilot of a light aircraft and his woman passenger were killed yesterday when plane crashed in torrential rain two-and-a-half miles short of Biggin Hill airfield in Kent.

Last night officials of the Civil Aviation Authority were piecing together the final seconds of the flight of the six-seat Cessna 310 from Blackpool, Lancashire, which ploughed into a field in Worthingham, Surrey.

The pilot and co-owner of the aircraft, Mr Reynold Woods, aged 57, the publican of the Ye Olde Horne Inn at Gosnargh, Lancashire, was on a private business trip to bring two executives back to Blackpool. His passenger is thought to have been a secretary for a Lancashire turf supplier.

Prosecution lawyers report devastating morale

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

Nearly 60 per cent of lawyers in the crown prosecution service are considering seeking jobs elsewhere, according to the first survey of the state of the service since it came into force fully last October.

The survey, by the prosecution lawyers' union, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, finds low morale, a lack of confidence in senior management and criticism of the standard of prosecution work.

It is based on a return of 72 per cent with replies from 739 lawyers in 28 of the service's 32 areas and reports a total of 439 lawyers (59 per cent) who are now considering seeking jobs outside the service. Of these, 208 had more than four years' experience and 117 had more than two years' experience.

Other findings are: More than three-quarters of the lawyers at crown prosecutor and senior crown prosecutor grade (76 per cent) describe morale as poor.

Fewer than 4 per cent thought it was good.

In 20 out of the 28 areas, including London and the former metropolitan counties where most crime is prosecuted, most (55 per cent) thought that the standard of prosecution work had worsened in their area as a result of the introduction of the crown prosecution service.

Five hundred and sixty nine of the 739 lawyers (77 per cent) said they had no confidence in senior headquarters' management: 138 (18 per cent) had doubts and only 32 lawyers

(4 per cent) expressed confidence.

In 14 areas, not a single lawyer expressed confidence in senior headquarters' staff. The appointment of any member of the existing senior management team to the coming vacancy of Director of Public Prosecutions is "likely to have an adverse effect on the poor morale which already exists", the association says.

It adds that the survey, which was prepared at short notice and aimed at the 1,020 lawyers in posts below the level of branch crown pro-

secutor, disclosed "devastating disaffection nationwide".

from Pezance to Durham and including the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Derek Stobbs, assistant general secretary, said that while the association had been aware of the feeling among its members, the results "bode very ill for the service".

"We have constantly argued that a new prosecution service of the high professional call bre-expected by the public, Parliament and the courts can only be achieved by

greatly improved pay and career prospects."

The majority of lawyers in the survey thought morale and standards could be improved through better career prospects.

A spokesman for the service said yesterday that it contested the survey's findings. "Morale is pretty good; obviously here and there there are going to be complaints."

He said that the survey questions were so worded as to produce a "predictable response".

Labour supporters getting ready for tactical voting

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The morale of Labour supporters is dropping as the general election draws nearer. The latest *Times/MORI* opinion poll in marginal constituencies records that 34 per cent of Labour supporters in seats where Labour was the runner-up to the Conservatives last time, believe that the Conservatives will win.

In the Conservative/Alliance marginals where Liberal or SDP candidates ran second last time 58 per cent of Labour supporters believe that the Conservatives will win, and so do 81 per cent of Alliance supporters.

But the fall in Labour morale underlines the danger to the Conservatives of a growing tactical vote for the Alliance. Those polled were asked whether, if they thought that the party of their first choice did not stand much chance of winning, they would think of switching to another party.

Now 18 per cent of Labour voters say that they would, half as many again as said so in February. The number of Conservative supporters who

would change, however, has dropped from 11 per cent to 10 per cent and the fall was from 12 per cent to 11 per cent among Alliance voters prepared to shift allegiance.

In February, in the seats where the Alliance ran second to the Conservatives in 1983, 19 per cent of Alliance supporters were prepared to switch. Now that proportion is down to 9 per cent.

Mr Neil Kinnock's recent moderation of his party's defence policies has made no difference to the low level of support for Labour's defence posture. Just over half of Labour supporters, 57 per cent, believe that their party has the best policies on defence. This compares with 90 per cent of Conservatives who believe their party's policy is best. But on this issue there is worse news for the Alliance. Only 43 per cent of its supporters believe their party has the best policy on defence.

On more detailed questioning on defence, respondents were asked which of four options came closest to their own views: (a) That Britain

should keep its own nuclear deterrent and stay in Nato; (b) That Britain should share its deterrent with other West European countries and stay in Nato; (c) That Britain should remove all nuclear bases but stay in Nato; and (d) That Britain should remove all nuclear bases and leave Nato.

Among Conservatives 49 per cent supported option (a), which is the Government's policy, and 41 per cent supported the other pro-nuclear option (b), a total of 90 per cent. Among Labour supporters 42 per cent favoured option (c), which is Labour's policy and 14 per cent wanted to go further as the Labour left suggests, a total of only 56 per cent for non-nuclear policies.

Alliance supporters split 26 per cent in favour of option (a), the Conservative policy, 44 per cent in favour of option (b), which comes closest to Alliance policy, and 24 per cent supported option (c), the Labour policy.

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Unreliable polls condemned

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Measures to expose misleading or unreliable opinion polls during the general election campaign were unveiled yesterday by market researchers anxious to preserve their profession's reputation.

The Market Research Society gave a warning of a growing number of new, inexperienced pollsters entering the field, an upsurge in the number of local polls conducted by non-professionals, the temptation to go for small sample surveys to save money, and the questionable

accuracy of polls conducted by telephone.

It said that the emergence of a third political force and an increasingly volatile electorate made the task of commissioning and interpreting polls harder than ever.

The influence of opinion polls on election results is already causing alarm amongst politicians and Mr Peter Bartram, a research society council member, said that unless action was taken "there's a real risk we will have external restrictions which would be heavy

handed, ineffective and frankly undemocratic".

The society is to set up a special general election advisory service supported by senior independent researchers and academic experts.

The society has already criticized recent polls in *The Star* and *The Sun*, both giving the Conservatives a substantial lead.

The survey methods and interpretation of results were dubious, and neither newspaper had published adequate information about where, when and how the surveys had been conducted, it said.

Climbdown on farm building

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

Radical plans for the countryside which environmentalists feared would lead to widespread development on farmland are to be watered down by the Government.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister for the Environment, Countryside and Planning, has decided to make crucial changes to safeguard farmland and rural areas from the threat of large-scale building, after widespread criticism of a draft Whitehall circular which fore-shadowed the biggest changes to the countryside since the Second World War.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, took the brunt of criticism in February after the badly-handled launch of the draft circular which spelled out a new policy for the development of agricultural land aimed at taking farmland out of food production.

He was accused by one ministerial colleague of having "put his great size 12 thumbs" all over the Government's carefully constructed "green" approach to the countryside.

The blueprint provided incentives for farmers to plant trees on thousands of acres, with 83 per cent of agricultural land no longer prohibited from development purely on agricultural grounds.

Mr Waldegrave has agreed to two key changes which have delighted environmentalists. First, he will delete a phrase saying that "areas of good

countryside" must be protected, after accepting that this could create a legal loophole.

A section which said that countryside must be protected for agricultural production reasons will be re-written to refer to protecting the countryside "for its own sake".

● The Government gave last night approved the redevelopment of empty Victorian mental hospitals in the green belt to provide thousands of new homes (Our Political Reporter writes).

Planning guidelines for local authorities would allow the hospitals to be demolished to make way for redevelopment, provided no suitable alternative use could be found for the existing buildings.

However, the Government said that the extensive grounds of these hospitals should be maintained as parkland and opened to the public.

Mr Waldegrave hailed the move as "a considerable opportunity for environmental gain". About 50 mental hospitals will become vacant in the next 10 years as their inmates are moved back into the community in line with government policy.

The guidelines are a blow for the regional health authorities which own the hospitals, as they will not be able to realize their full land values. A spokesman for the House Builders Federation said the guidelines represented "an awful waste of resources".

Clarke backs rank and file

By Ronald Faux and Tim Jones

Only trade unions which treat members responsibly and democratically deserve to survive in the economy of the future, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Paymaster General and Minister for Employment, said yesterday.

He told an Industrial Society conference in London that responsible trade unions willing and able to take account of their members' wishes would have the strength and power of a large popular movement.

He particularly mentioned the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU) and the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AEU) as having moved in that direction. The Government intended to strengthen the relationship between unions and their members.

Green Paper proposals should, he said, prevent attempts by unions to railroad members into strikes. A majority vote would give a union valuable legal immunities for action taken in a dispute which would otherwise be unlawful, he said.

Mr John Prescott, shadow employment secretary, said a

Labour government would not impose a legal strait-jacket on British industry, but since industry had signally failed to improve its information and consultation mechanisms voluntarily, Labour would have to lay down standards.

He said: "Britain has the worst trained, worst paid, least informed, and least involved labour force of any developed economy".

● Britain's largest manufacturing union yesterday held back from a demand for the next Labour government to re-nationalize "immediately" all companies privatized by the Conservatives.

Instead, by 74 votes to 47, delegates to the AEU conference in Eastbourne passed a compromise motion calling for all essential services to be taken back "eventually" into public ownership.

Mr Mick Martin, a London delegate said: "Unless we take back into public ownership industries stolen from us, Labour's job creation programme will come to nothing".

But Mr Malcolm Jack, Birmingham, pleaded with the union, which subscribes heav-

ily to Labour party funds, not to split the movement by telling Mr Neil Kinnock how to proceed if he gets to Downing Street.

The moderate majority among the delegates asserted its position yesterday, when they decided to bar Militant from the conference while allowing a journalist from *The Sun*, published by News International, to report their proceedings.

● The AEU has accused the Government of impoverishing Britain to the tune of £11,000 million and losing two million jobs since coming to power because of its failure to protect British industry against the onslaught of Japanese goods.

Mr Bill Jordan, president, said yesterday: "Yet now, eight years too late, we have the Government preparing a pre-election Falklands financial war to protect the banks".

"We have been calling for years for protection against one-sided importation of Japanese goods, but it is only when the City faces the first breeze of competition that the Government threatens to act".

Miners sought for North-east area

By Peter Davenport

British Coal is to recruit new miners for its North-east coalfield for the first time in five years.

Notices offering jobs to 200 men aged 18 to 20 are to be posted at the eight collieries in the region. In an area of high unemployment, officials said yesterday they expected to be overwhelmed with applications.

The recruits will begin training on the surface at a basic weekly wage of £11.35 before moving underground. The announcement comes at the same time as the region expects to be able to report its first profit in 20 years.

Mr David Archibald, the region's director for British Coal, said yesterday that he expected the area to record an operating profit of £5 million for the last financial year.

"After the industry's dramatic restructuring in the past two years the North-east coalfield is heading into the black and expecting to record its

best financial results for 20 years", he said.

Last year the area produced 10.2 million tonnes of coal, about three tonnes per man shift, meeting all output targets. The region employs 14,000 at the eight pits, compared with 22,800 at 16 collieries before the miners' strike.

Six of the eight pits extend under the North Sea, with up to 10,500 men making the six-mile journey to the coalface. Because of the travel time involved, British Coal is asking the men to accept more flexible hours, working four days of nine hour shifts, rather than the current five days of seven-and-a-quarter hours, to allow more production time at the coalface.

● Six hundred miners on unofficial strike at Bettis-hanger, Kent, were last night warned that the future of the coalfield was on the line because of their action in support of miners dismissed during the year-long dispute.

Tension at hostage jail rises

By Richard Ford

Tension at a jail where "loyalist" prisoners are holding two hostages has increased after disturbances in the prison's dining rooms.

Chairs and tables were smashed during brief disturbances at Magilligan Prison, Co Londonderry on Monday night, but no one was injured and the trouble was brought under control quickly.

The Northern Ireland Office denied that the trouble was a riot though it was clearly linked with the demands of 29 "loyalist" prisoners holding a prison officer and a Roman Catholic inmate hostage as part of a campaign for segregation of prisoners with different political allegiances.

The siege has lasted more than 48 hours and 50 "loyalist" prisoners who began refusing food four days ago are still fasting.

A prison chaplain yesterday tried to break the deadlock at the jail, where the "loyalist" prisoners have barricaded themselves in a cell block.

Yesterday the Rev Norman Hunter, a Presbyterian chaplain who visits the jail, said: "I am hoping to talk to the prisoners involved".

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, reiterated his refusal to negotiate over the demand for segregation.

Leading article, page 13

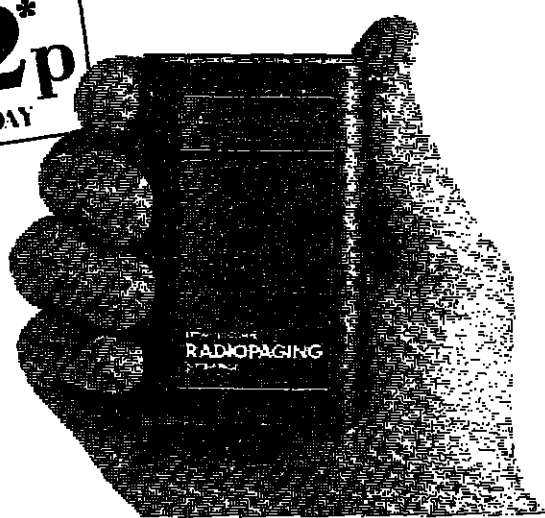
Correction

The case against Jonathan Feldman, of Bonnington Square, Vauxhall, south London, accused of using threatening behaviour outside News International at Wapping on January 24 was dismissed by Thames magistrates. He was not bound over for 12 months as stated on March 17.

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Nurses call for the elderly to be saved from family abuse

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government should bring in legislation to protect the elderly from physical abuse, based on child abuse laws, nurses said yesterday.

Delegates at the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference in Glasgow claimed that elderly patients were admitted to accident and emergency wards with bruises and broken limbs after physical abuse, often from their own relatives.

Elderly people should be given the same protection as children at risk from abuse, said Mr Gary Jones, representative of the Accident and Emergency Forum.

Legislation should be introduced so that social workers and geriatricians were legally obliged to make an assessment and offer the support, protection, and care required by both the elderly person and their relatives, Mr Jones said.

He went on: "Over the weekend an elderly lady with severe bruising arrived with a worried daughter. The daughter said her mother had fallen over. Following medical examination, the lady is discharged despite the level of care the family can offer."

Had that woman been a child with bruises, a well-organized system of care would have swung into operation.

Mr Jones said, at-risk registers could be checked, and social services and general practitioners would become involved.

Mr Jones cited a 1984 study on old-age abuse which claimed that more than 90 per cent admitted to physical abuse or psychological abuse of their elderly relatives. Physical abuse ranged from bruises to broken bones and even death, while mental abuse included verbal aggression.

He said: "The problem of granny-bashing is not going to disappear". The number of people aged 75 and over would continue to rise. "Some systems must be organized with the appropriate legislation to ensure that elderly individuals at risk are protected."

Mr Jones said it was difficult to assess the extent of abuse as no records were kept in accident and emergency departments other than attendance records.

Mrs Ann Kay, a district nurse, admitted she had cared for elderly people with suspected non-accidental injuries, but she said that once people were put on at-risk registers, it would be very difficult to get them off. "How would you administer such a register? Should we take all 80-year-olds into care?"

She called instead for more co-ordination between the caring professions. "We need to recognize the signs of stress in a family, and we need to educate that family so they feel able to cope. We must prevent this abuse."

Delegates also expressed their concern about "granny dumping", Miss Jan Maycock, chairwoman of the Rheumatology Nursing Forum, said: "Vulnerable old people are rushed into hospital and regarded as unwanted parcels with no pre-planning for appropriate placement in longer-term care."

The conference passed a resolution by an overwhelming majority to urge the Government to bring about legislative changes to give protection to vulnerable elderly people in the same way that vulnerable children can be protected.

The college also gave unanimous support to a resolution calling on the Government to ensure appropriate primary health care services for the homeless. A further resolution carried unanimously yesterday pressed the Government to take urgent action over its persistent refusal to respond to successive reports on the damaging effects of inequalities in health care provision.

Aids discrimination

Hospital staff ostracized

Nurses with the Aids virus are being shunned by their colleagues and discriminated against by their employers, the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) claimed yesterday.

Although nurses carrying the virus posed no threat to patients as there was no risk of them passing on the infection, they were nevertheless being ostracized by their peers, the RCN said.

Mr Richard Wells, the college's Aids adviser, said he had received up to 20 telephone calls from nurses who had been pressurized to resign because they had the virus. In each case the RCN had intervened, but it was suspected that similar discrimination was widespread throughout the health service.

In one incident a nurse treating an Aids patient suffered a needle injury and was tested for the Aids virus. The nurse manager provided her with a marked plate and cup for the canteen before the results, which were negative, were known, Mr Wells said.

"In another case a nurse cared superbly for a man dying with Aids, but her colleagues would not sit with her in the dining room."

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the RCN, said that the college would draw up guidelines for NHS employ-

The risk of Aids infection for customs and police drugs investigators will be one of the important topics at a national drugs conference attended by investigators from Britain, Spain, The Netherlands and North America, which opens in Preston, Lancashire, today (Our Crime Reporter writes).

The conference, the seventh of its type organized by the Association of Chief Police Officers, will discuss links between the infection and drug abuse, as well as needle exchange schemes now in operation.

The conference will also concentrate on encouraging co-operation between drug investigation agencies at home and abroad.

ers. If necessary it would bring a test case against an offending authority.

Mr Wells said: "It is estimated that between 30,000 to 100,000 people in the UK are already infected and there are over 450,000 nurses. But even if every nurse in the country was infected with the virus they would pose no threat to patients."

Mr Wells said that a follow-up study on a United States doctor who died of Aids had shown that although he had performed 2,000 operations

none of the patients had subsequently contracted the disease.

The college emphasized that nurses could not be excused for their own prejudices against Aids sufferers. Any nurse who had been educated about Aids who subsequently refused to care for an Aids patient should be referred to the central council disciplinary procedure. "There is no opt out clause. If a nurse had been given the appropriate education we would not stand by them," Mr Clay said.

The RCN congress at Glasgow unanimously carried a motion calling on its council, "to continue its efforts to dispel the myths and ignorance surrounding the training and employment of nurses who are HIV positive".

Proposing the motion, Mr Nick Williamson, of the Association of Nursing Students, said that Aids had already highlighted the deficiencies in the abilities of some nurses.

"There have been instances where the confidentiality of students who are anti-body positive has been broken. One student was suspended from duty by the occupational health department and shunned and ostracized by colleagues and made a victim of a hate mail campaign," he said.



PC James Shirreff (left) and Mr Eric Rose, doffing hats yesterday during a ceremony which saw Britain's biggest police force, the Metropolitan Police, salute the smallest and oldest corps of civilian constables, the Burlington Arcade Beadles. Mr Rose, the Chief Beadle, heads a team of three which still enforces the laws of courtesy, silence and decorum at the arcade, and whose predecessors were first on duty in 1819 (Photograph: Graham Wood).

Appointments as judges

Law Society fights case for solicitors

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

The Law Society is to question the Lord Chancellor's Department about the low number of solicitors being appointed as judges, particularly as recorders or circuit judges.

It is concerned that able solicitor-candidates are not being appointed as often as they might be, given the pool of 47,000 solicitors compared with that of 5,500 barristers.

The latest figures show that in July 1986 there were only 37 solicitor circuit judges in England and Wales; 34 solicitor recorders and 68 solicitor assistant recorders. Since January 1981, 105 barristers

have been appointed as circuit judges, 335 as recorders and 318 as assistant recorders.

Barristers of 10 years' call are reviewed automatically for a judicial appointment, whereas solicitors have to make a formal application.

Solicitors are also barred from serving on the High Court bench or in higher courts, although Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said recently that in his view there was no reason why solicitors should not be eligible for appointment as High Court judges.

Mr Andrew Lockley, head of the society's legal practice directorate, said yesterday: "Large numbers of solicitors

are clearly interested in judicial appointment and it may be there are those who are hiding their light under a bushel and not being ferreted out by the present procedures."

The Law Society is now inviting solicitors to submit information about any difficulties they may have experienced in obtaining judicial appointments at all levels, including those as chairmen of tribunals. It will seek a meeting with officials in charge of judicial appointments in the Lord Chancellor's Department to see if procedures can be improved.

● A number of judges had continued their careers after

being convicted of drink-driving offences, an international conference on alcohol-related problems was told yesterday. Some of the judges had been promoted and it was claimed that one had even sat on a drink-driving appeal in the House of Lords.

Mr Roy Light, senior lecturer in law at Bristol Polytechnic, said: "We have a situation where a judge can be convicted of a crime which carries imprisonment on first conviction and suffer no career impediment."

"Other sorts of improper conduct often result in resignation. This can do nothing but harm to the struggle to make drink-driving socially unacceptable."

Teachers urged to boycott meetings

By John Clare,
Education Correspondent

A teaching union has advised its members not to attend annual parents' meetings in case they are criticized in public.

The first of the meetings, which were made obligatory in England and Wales by the 1986 Education Act, are to be held next term. Their purpose

is to allow parents to discuss the work of the school.

Yesterday the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association said it was concerned that parents, "some motivated by malice", might use the annual meetings to air complaints against individual teachers.

The association said it had a clear duty to protect the interests of its 123,000 mem-

bers in state and private schools. It added that its stance was "not an irrational, defensive reaction: it is born of a desire to avoid conflict and tension in schools".

A circular from the Department of Education and Science explaining the Act says that where a named individual is the subject of criticism, the chairman of the annual meeting "should ensure that dis-

cussion is calm, positive and reasonably brief". It adds that the person criticized should be offered the right of reply, at once if he or she is present.

The association says the clear implication is that it is legitimate for parents to use the meetings to raise criticisms of individual teachers. But such complaints should be dealt with "in a private and confidential way".

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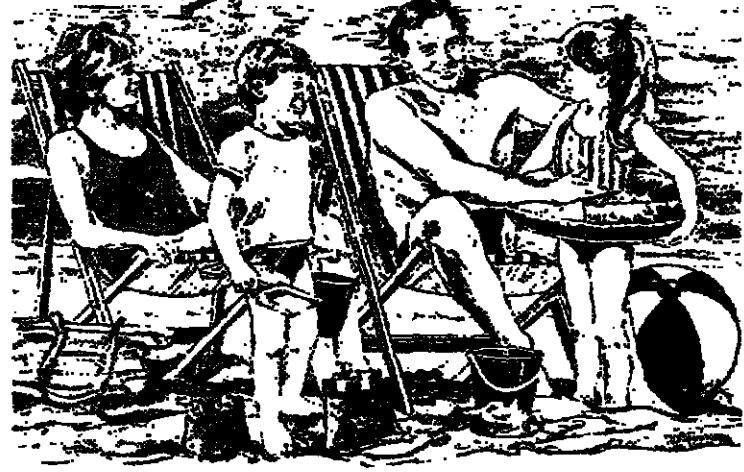
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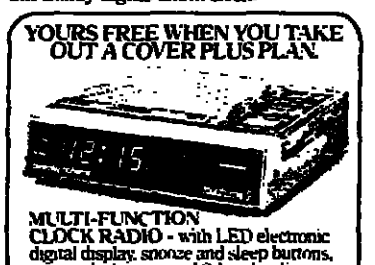
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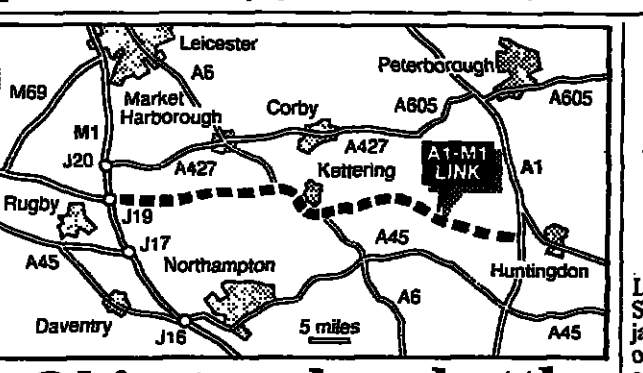
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Objectors lose battle of Naseby link road

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Objectors have lost their fight to stop a dual carriageway crossing the site of the battle of Naseby.

After 143 days of hearings at public inquiries, the Department of Transport and the Department of the Environment have decided to go ahead with construction of the 4.5-mile link between the M1 and the A1.

The £126 million link road will cross the southern fringe of the Civil War battlefield. It will meet the M1 close to the junction with the M6, north-east of Rugby, and pass south of Kettering to join the A1 near Huntingdon. As part of the scheme it is planned also to build a by-pass to the north of Kettering.

The Department of Transport said the ministers had

accepted the recommendation of an independent inspector that the link road route proposed by the department, with some modifications, was preferable to alternative strategies put forward by objectors.

Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, said the exact site of the battle of Naseby was uncertain. But the route proposed by the objectors, which would have completely avoided the battle site, would have had a much more serious effect on villages near by.

The department had at one time hoped to start construction of the link road by this spring. But Mr Moore indicated yesterday that work would not start until early next year, and then only subject to further consultation

Silcott in appeal on PC killing

By Stewart Tandler
Crime Reporter

Lawyers acting for Winston Silcott, sentenced to 30 years jail last month for the murder of PC Keith Blacklock, began appeal proceedings yesterday to overturn the verdict on the basis the evidence was too slim to put before a jury.

Mr Andrew Hall, Silcott's solicitor, said he was applying for leave to appeal on the grounds that the trial judge, Mr Justice Hodgson, should not have left the jury to decide whether what Silcott said to police amounted to an admission of guilt.

During the trial the defence pointed out that the crown case against Silcott rested purely on police interviews. Among other exchanges during interviews, Det Chief Supt Graham Melvin, who was in charge of the case, had asked if he could help to find weapons used in the riot. Silcott replied: "You are too slow man. They have gone."

Mr Hall said what Silcott had said was not an admission of what was being put to him as the crown claimed.

He said there was no criticism of the jury which had been under pressure.

Firemen 'drank and slept' on duty

Emergency fire crews at one of Britain's biggest Army ammunition stores popped out of the camp for a drink in their fire engine.

It was also usual for the night watch officer to take a mattress into the watch room for a sleep, a Birmingham industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Military police discovered the stories of drinking and sleeping on duty when they had difficulty raising the duty fire crew at the Ministry of Defence ammunition dump at Kinross, Warwickshire, during an explosion alert.

Sub-officer Geoffrey King, aged 41, of Daventry Road, Southam, and fireman Alan Povey, aged 36 of St Giles Road, Gaydon, are claiming that they were unfairly dismissed after the incident.

Mr Philip Gregory, for the military, said that military police noticed water coming from a store which they feared contained water-activated explosives.

They had difficulty raising the firemen, and when they eventually managed to rouse them they said it was apparent they had been drinking.

Sub-officer King said that he had been out celebrating his last night at the station before being promoted to a new job.

He had gone to the Naffin on the fire appliance with fireman Povey and another fireman to carry out a check, but had stayed for a drink. Then the trio used the fire engine to go to a rugby club outside the camp.

He admitted that one of his officers was "plainly drunk" when he arrived at the emergency, and said it was common practice to sleep on duty.

The case continues today.

Portfolio Gold Winner to take good holiday

Three readers shared yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mr Frederic Bird, aged 70, of Friars Close, Sheffields, Essex, said he was delighted to hear the news because it meant he could go on a good holiday.

Mr Bird, a retired headmaster, has been a reader of *The Times* for the past 50 years.

Mr Dilip Atkar, a civil engineer, of Burroughs Lane, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Ann Cunningham, of Burnt Common Lane, Ripley, Surrey, were the other two winners.

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Mr Bird who shares the £4,000 prize with two others

Jump by dog costs £50,000

The owners of a dog blamed for a road accident in which a boy suffered severe injuries, are to pay £50,000 damages. The award to Matthew Owens, now aged 18, was made in the High Court yesterday, four years after the accident.

The dog, a Labrador, was alleged to have jumped at one of the boy's school friends causing him to step backwards into Matthew, who fell into the path of a car. Matthew, of St Anthony Court, Fairbank Avenue, Orpington, Kent, suffered impaired memory and intellect.

Allegations against MPs renewed in Commons

Allegations that two Conservative MPs had made multiple applications for British Telecom shares were renewed in the Commons when Mr Andrew Faulds (Worlebury, Lab) called on the Leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, to move for expulsions and Mr Dore Campbell (Savoy, Lab) complained that two motions that he had tried to put down had been so amended that they had lost their sense.

Mrs Ann Cleeve (Ynys Valley, Lab) began the exchanges when she said that there was outrage among ordinary people about "MPs lining their pockets at their expense".

Mr Campbell-Savours recalled that the Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) had told Mr Roy Hattersley yesterday that the matter should be dealt with by motion. He (Mr Campbell-Savours) and two other Labour MPs had all tried to table motions but it was not possible to place them as MPs usually did. And if they could not make interventions in the Chamber there was nothing they could do.

The Speaker did not have to wait for a decision on a prosecution and the House was free to take its own decision. The Attorney General had a duty to prosecute immediately.

The Speaker said that *Erskine May* (the guide to parliamentary procedure) set out the way in which reflections on the conduct of MPs must be on a substantive motion drawn in the proper terms, admitting of a distinct vote of the House.

Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) said that Mrs Cleeve and he had been told that her motion was perfectly in order, but that "there were people in the House who did not want it put down". They were told that it was the Speaker who did not want it put down. The Speaker said that he knew nothing of conversations in which he did not take part. But if motions were in order on the order paper they would go down.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) said that both Mr

Keith Best (Ynys Môn, C) and Mr Eric Cockeram (Ludlow, C) had both admitted applying for more than one lot of shares.

The Speaker said that charges could not be made across the chamber like this, and Mr Weatherill replied that the charges had been admitted in the press by both MPs. "How was the good name and integrity of the House to be protected in view of such reprehensible behaviour?"

The Speaker said he was bound by long established rules and practices and intended to uphold them.

Mr Faulds said that in 1947, on the initiative of the Leader of the House, Garry Allihay was expelled from the House. In 1954 Peter Baker was expelled when the initiative was taken to move expulsion by the then Leader of the House.

It was the duty of Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, to move for expulsion whenever an MP was guilty of activities unbecoming to MPs.

The Speaker said that was not a matter for him. It would be in order for Mr Biffen to do as Mr Faulds suggested, but clear procedures were laid down for such matters and Mr Faulds should take advice on them.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield Hillsborough, Lab) told Conservative MPs, who continued to protest loudly, that there was no good reason howling abuse and rudeness.

The Opposition, honourably, wanted to know what it could do about two Conservative MPs who had admitted that they had done illegal things - but it was confused.

The Speaker: I understand the Director of Public Prosecutions is involved with this matter.

But the House has its procedures with matters of this kind which are clearly established and have been used in the past and could be used on this occasion.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Mossley Hill, L) sympathized with the Speaker for having been put in an invidious position in the House, purely because the Government had failed to make a statement.



The Prime Minister flatly refused to answer any question about "a particular case" when she was asked about the acquisition of shares. Laughter from some MPs indicated that they believed an attempt was being made to overcome her reluctance when Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab) (above) later asked what action she was taking to check the statistical validity of the recent claim that one in five people now owned shares.

when Mrs Thatcher simply replied that the Treasury record of provision of statistics was extremely good.

Mr Nicholas Brown (Newcastle upon Tyne, East, Lab): Is the Prime Minister ever slightly impressed by the greed and avarice excited in some people by the sell-off of state-owned assets below market value. Can she explain why these matters were discovered by the Labour Research Department and not by the Government's own watchdog?

Mrs Thatcher: I have nothing to say about any particular case.

Amid considerable noise from the Opposition benches, she continued: Privatization has led to millions of employees, who would never otherwise have had the chance, now owning shares. She said that there were now eight million shareholders, but "that meant nothing to Labour but had news, because it leads to independence and to personal prosperity and both are death to their policies".

Mr Richard Caborn (Sheffield, Central, Lab) referred to a situation in which people who had voted, where the state and a company had been swindled. . . .

Mr Julius Amery (Brighton Pavilion, C) from a seated position: Scandalous buggers (extremely loud and prolonged Labour protest).

Mr Brian Sedgemore (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) also seated: Disgraceful! Throw him out! Throw him out!

The Speaker: I was listening carefully to what Mr Caborn was saying.

Mr Caborn continued by recounting that an old age pensioner in his constituency had been charged and committed in respect of a tin of salmon.

Contrasting that with the BT share applications, he wanted to know what standards operated in society.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) told the Speaker that Mr Amery had quite clearly referred to Labour MPs as "scandalous buggers" (loud Conservative laughter).

That, and the Conservatives' laughter was symptomatic of the way the House of Commons had been dragged into the mud by Conservative MPs.

Mr Amery should withdraw his remark (Conservative protest and Labour shouts of "Withdraw").

Mr Amery: I am very happy to withdraw the second word which I used (loud Conservative laughter).

Mr Terence Lewis (Worlebury, Lab) renewed the call for clear guidance over how to raise the matter. The Government should make a statement. The Speaker should do what was best for the House.

The Speaker repeated his remarks about the well established procedures already in existence for dealing with such a matter.

"It is not for me to spell them out. All that is required is a motion that can be debated and opportunities to debate them, if that is what the House wants."

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) said that he had tried to amend a motion relating to Mr Best. Usually, amending a motion was simple.

That, though, the House of Commons had demonstrated double standards by stopping his amendment.

"I find it incredible that we can have people thrown out of this chamber for saying the judges were Tories during the miners' strike - and they were - yet when we have fiddling Tory MPs we cannot have a motion amended."

The Speaker agreed with Mr Skinner's assertion that it was a political matter. As such, it was reprehensible to draw the Chair into it.

Tories' record on nurses praised

HEALTH

The Prime Minister said that her Government's record on nurses' pay was "excellent" when it came under attack from Mr Neil Kinnock. Leader of the Opposition, at question time.

Mr Kinnock referred to the president of the Royal College of Nursing's warning that if pay and conditions are not improved, the services would crack.

"Will the Prime Minister give nurses their well earned due, or are she going to give them the same patronizing, self-satisfied response as that given by her minister at the Royal College of Nursing congress yesterday?" Mrs Thatcher: It was this Government which set up the nurses' pay review body. It was this Government which last year accepted the increase of 7.3 per cent recommended by the pay review body.

Nurses' pay is one third higher in real terms than in 1979. Under present pay scales, a ward sister on the maximum of the scale is £2,700 a year better off than if they had simply been indexed since 1979.

Our record on nurses' pay is very good indeed. His Government could not hold a candle to it.

Mr Kinnock: If conditions are as wonderful as she describes, why does she think that this most dignified of professions has been so badly treated yesterday?

If the nurses do not believe the Prime Minister, why should anyone else?

So far as the pay review is concerned, since the Prime Minister failed to honour the recommendations last year and the year before, will she give me and the nurses (Conservative laughter) and the whole country an undertaking to honour the recommendations of this year's review in full, to pay it in full, to date it from April 1 and not evade, dodge or give short change as she has for the past two years?

Mrs Thatcher: Perhaps he does not recall that under Labour, nurses received pay increases of less than the rate of inflation for three years in succession.

The number of nurses has increased by 60,000 and their working week has been cut by two and a half hours. Our record on nurses' pay is excellent. We have not yet received the pay review body recommendations. They will be studied carefully when they are received.

Mr John Taylor (Solihull, C): Total National Health Service spending today is 300 per cent of the 1979 figure. How does she reconcile that with what some people call cuts?

Mrs Thatcher: The NHS has many more resources under its belt than it had under the last Labour Government. Those are found, not by the Government, but by people who pay income tax and value-added tax. They pay twice what they did when we came to power. Any increase has to be made from their pockets. There is no other source.

Dr Oonagh McDonald (Thurrock, Lab): What does she propose to do about the fact that one in four jobs for nursing staff in London are now vacant?

Mrs Thatcher said that a report had been commissioned to look at any particular problems of recruitment of nurses in London (Labour laughter). The study team expected to report by late spring.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield Hillsborough, Lab) said that nurses were "being treated to howling abuse from the Conservative Party, and they are struggling, as best they can. They are being treated in a way which is obscene when they are struggling to stay in the profession and to help the rest of us."

Mrs Thatcher: This Government's record on pay of the nursing profession and reduction of hours in the working week for nurses, and increasing the number of nurses in the NHS is better than that of any other government.

Thatcher 'will decide on poll'

The date of the next general election would not be decided in Fleet Street but in Downing Street, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said to loud cheers during Prime Minister's question time in the Commons.

She was replying to Mrs Ann Winterton (Campton, C), who said that morale on the Conservative benches was extremely high at present in the light of the Government's many achievements, not least on inflation, rising productivity and growing world respect.

"Will she assess the mood of the decision of the date of the next general election is hers and hers alone and does not depend on media 'hype', pressure or speculation?"

Bemrose jobs threat worries MP

Messrs Bemrose were anxious that the situation at the Altrave printing plant of Eric Bemrose, where 700 jobs were to be lost, did not develop along lines similar to the Wapping dispute, Mr George Howarth (Hastings, Lab) said in the Commons when he unsuccessfully sought an emergency debate on the proposed job losses.

He said that the company was part of News International, a group which the Commons "has a less than happy recent history in these matters". Trade unionists on Merseyside did not want another Wapping situation. More job losses would add to the already unacceptable high unemployment on Merseyside.

His own local authority, with the Department of Trade and Industry, had been at an advanced stage in negotiating a financial package which would involve the closure of the Bemrose operation to a new plant on another site with up to date technology. There should be discussions to see if there was any way in which the decision on jobs could be reversed.

Bullies will be dealt with

Bullying would not be and must not be tolerated in the Army or other Armed Services, Mrs Thatcher said during Prime Minister's question time.

Mr Richard Alexander (Newark, C) asked if he had read the recent reports of brutality towards young soldiers in training. Would she confirm that the reports represented a deviation from the high standard expected and usually achieved in the British Army? Would she confirm, he asked, that brutal NCOs and officers who turned a blind eye to such activity would be rooted out and turned to areas away from recruit training (Labour cheers).

Mrs Thatcher said that the reports were being thoroughly investigated. If they were substantiated, disciplinary action would be taken against the offenders.

Decision of court stands

The Government did not intend to contest the decision by the Court of Appeal that affected the way that epileptic people's needs for attention is officially assessed.

Announcing that during Commons questions, Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, reminded MPs that interpretations of the law governing decisions over whether an epileptic person needed "continual supervision" had been changed by the judgement in the case of Mrs Dorothy Morgan. Now the Attendance Allowance Board, which oversaw decisions in such cases, was revising its guidelines.

Teachers' pay move rejected

The Prime Minister rejected a demand by Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, that she instruct the Secretary of State for Education and Science (Mr Kenneth Baker) to bring forward immediately proposals for the restoration of the teachers' negotiating machinery during March, if she failed to do so, the teachers' dispute, which they deplored, would get more serious.

Mrs Thatcher replied: No. We have granted a considerable increase in teachers' pay and recruitment of teachers is going up, particularly in physics and maths. The arrangements we have made in the meantime for teachers' pay negotiations are temporary until we reach a permanent settlement.

Jews leave

The Foreign Office estimates that 470 Soviet Jews were allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union during March, the highest monthly total for some years, Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, said in a written reply. "We hope this encouraging trend will continue", he added.

Losses denied

Figures showed that most people would not lose any of their disposable income when income support replaced supplementary benefit next year, Mr John Major, Minister for Social Security, said during Commons questions.

'£90m a year for Aids care' report is denied

A suggestion that clinical care costs for patients would reach £90 million a year within two years was dismissed by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, during question time in the Commons.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman for health and social security, said that Mrs Thatcher and he had been told that the figure followed the Department of Health and Social Security's own projections on the spread of Aids, bearing in mind that clinical health care was the most costly item in the Aids budget.

Since only about a quarter of health authority expenses on Aids was funded centrally, he said, was that not an indication that already cash was having to be diverted away from essential health care?

Is this not another indication of gross underfunding in the National Health Service?"

Mr Fowler: He really must grow up in some of the points he is putting. Even he knows that we do not fund centrally individual programmes throughout the health service. This is not the way we have done it nor was it the way the Labour Government, of which he was a member, did it.

I do not know where he gets this figure of £90 million from. Clearly the Government recognizes that there is a duty to provide resources so that people can be treated with decency and with compassion. I hope he will support a motion to that effect.

According to a request by Mr Andrew Mackay (East Berkshire, C) for a further statement on Government measures to combat Aids, Mr Fowler said that action to combat the disease continued to be one of the Government's highest priorities.

"The latest research on our public education campaign shows a very high level of public awareness of how the Aids virus is transmitted and how to avoid infection. The Government is continuing to develop the campaign."

They had also provided increased resources for research, counselling and care, and had held two conferences last month on the implications of the spread of HIV infection and on community care for Aids victims.

Mr Mackay asked if Mr Fowler was satisfied that there were going to be enough hospices for future Aids patients.

Mr Fowler said that was one of the areas in which the Government was planning to provide increased provision, not only for more hospices, but also more hospital accommodation, and providing more community care that would involve not just the health services, but the voluntary and social services too.

Mr Fowler said that the argument for compulsory screening raised the question of what was done with the information?

Labour councils that were actively promoting homosexuality among children (prolonged Opposition protest).

It was ridiculous that public money should be devoted to encouraging homosexuality while Government money was being spent trying to stop the spread of Aids.

Mr Fowler said that he did not believe anyone on either side of the House would support the encouragement of homosexuality among children.

Mr David Young (Bolton South East, Lab) asked what budget was being allocated to research on Aids and what proportion was it of the entire budget, and what research projects were being carried out internationally?

Mr Fowler said that the Government had just announced a £14.5 million campaign directed to research, organized by the Medical Research Council, which was likely to be one of the most successful campaigns. In addition there were research campaigns being organized in the United States and in Europe.

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said that the only likely way to contain the killer disease was by public screening of those at risk to identify and treat those carrying the virus.

Mr Fowler said that the argument for compulsory screening raised the question of what was done with the information?

Health service spending defended by Fowler

Mr Frank Dobson, a Labour spokesman on health, asked during questions on the social services why, if the nurses were doing so well under the present Government, they were leaving the health service at the rate of 36,000 a year.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said that the departure rate must be set against the total staffing of about 380,000. The present Government had given the nurses the pay review body which Labour never had.

Mr Fowler said that between 1979 and 1985, the proportion of the United Kingdom gross domestic product spent on health care rose from 5.2 per cent to 6.6 per cent. Over the same period, health spending had increased from £301 to £384 a head at 1986-87 prices.

Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C): That 26 per cent increase a person throughout the country is one of the most accurate indicators of health provision, suggesting a vastly improved health service and better health care for all. How does it compare with other Western countries?

Mr Fowler: I entirely agree. On the international comparison, the real growth of total health spending a person between 1975 and 1985 is of the order of 21 per cent, and according to the OECD data for 1983, the latest available date for comparison, that growth is the highest in Western industrialized countries except the United States.

Mr David Knox (Staffordshire, Moorlands, C): Those figures provide an interesting reflection of the priorities of Labour and Conservative governments.

Mr Fowler: Indeed. The base figure I am quoting we inherited from the last Labour Government and if we go back to cuts in the health service, we have to go back to the last Labour Government and its cuts in the hospital building programme.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): When similar claims were made yesterday in Scotland, the general members of the Royal College of Nursing howled down the minister because nobody in the country believes a word of the boasts the Conservatives make about the health service, not least the 1986 select committee report on expenditure in the health service.

If he takes account of the index used by the health service on pay and prices, and takes account of demographic and technological changes, there has been a decrease between 1979 and today.

Mr Fowler: What he is saying is typically absurd. Quite apart from the figures of finance which he has wrong, the fact is that the real figures for health care, the number of patients treated, show that the Government is providing better health care. Since 1979, nurses' pay has increased by 23 per cent in real terms, in contrast with a fall of 21 per cent under the last Labour Government.

Mr Simon Hughes (Southwark and Bermondsey, L): He should come clean with the House and admit that the United Kingdom spends a lower proportion of gross domestic product on the health service than any other Community country except Greece and Portugal.

Mr Fowler: I do not accept it when he talks of horrendous inequality. The policy of re-allocation of resources and Rapp (Resource allocation working party) has meant a redistribution of resources to areas which had been deprived of resources under the last Labour Government which the Liberals supported.

Mr David Heathcoat-Amory (Wells, C): That excellent record of increased expenditure would mean even more in better health care if steps were taken to control the escalating cost of pharmaceuticals in the NHS. Some doctors are still wasteful in prescribing habits. Will he encourage them to prescribe generically where possible?

Mr Fowler: Certainly we advise doctors on good dispensing and good practice, but I have to point out that the selected list has meant a saving to the health service of about £75 million. That policy has been vindicated in spite of the opposition from the Opposition.

Ministers 'have no care for jobless'

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, maintained yesterday his charge that the Government does not care about unemployment. He released figures suggesting that the average jobless figure in constituencies represented by Cabinet ministers is much lower than elsewhere.

In a statement, he said that only two members of the Cabinet - Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales - represented areas with above-average unemployment.

In its new poster campaign, launched this week, Labour is alleging that the Government does not care about the divisions in Britain.

Yesterday, Mr Hattersley said that in Cabinet ministers' seats, average unemployment is only 8.37 per cent and for most of them it is below 8 per cent. "They don't see real mass unemployment and they don't care about the unemployment they see."

For the purposes of his calculations, Mr Hattersley puts the total unemployment rate at 11.9 per cent, which he says would be 14.7 per cent were it not for the changes to

Female ministry confirmed

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

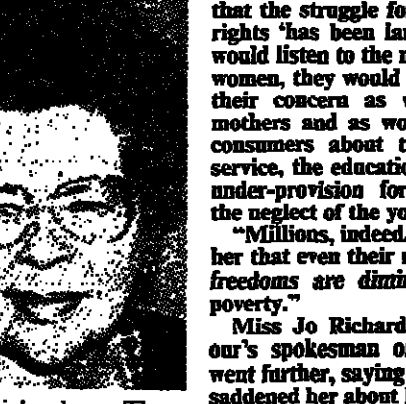
A future Labour government would set up a ministry for women, headed by a female politician of Cabinet rank and staffed by up to 300 civil servants, it was confirmed yesterday.

The new ministry, guaranteed a seat on all key Cabinet committees and working from the Cabinet Office, would have powers to ensure that every Whitehall department took decisions in the light of the need to promote sexual equality.

A new contract-compliance unit would be set up within the Department of Employment to make sure that firms bidding for Government and council business conform to new "equality guidelines".

Responsibility for the Equal Opportunities Commission would be switched from the Home Office to the new ministry, which would take charge of a radical overhaul of the covering sex discrimination and equal pay.

But the ministry would make only a "nominal" call on the public purse because it would be staffed by civil servants on secondment from other departments. Further measures aimed at improv-



Miss Jo Richardson: Thatcher has closed doors.

the lot of women, such as the £3-a-week increase in child benefit, are already covered by Labour's £3.6 billion anti-poverty programme.

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday emphasized his commitment to the new approach as he launched "Labour's agenda for women" at a London press conference.

Accusing the Government of running down the social services and ignoring the needs of women in education and employment, he claimed that the past seven-and-a-half years had set back the cause of women's rights.

He said: "If the Prime Minister, instead of claiming

Council services Bill introduced

Mr John Hiddle (Mid Staffordshire, C) was given leave in the Commons under the 10-minute rule to introduce a Bill that would prevent local authorities discriminating against private companies supplying goods and contracting services.

He said that his Local Government (Supply of Goods and Services) Bill would prevent a serious and growing abuse of purchasing power by some local councils under the tight control of the left. These councils imposed political conditions, which had nothing to do with local affairs, on private businesses.

Their duty is to provide their ratespayers with the highest standard of service at the lowest possible cost. It is not for them to impose their own interpretation on the law, but simply to administer it.

There were 40 councils that at present introduced overtly political considerations into some stage of the contractual process, such as inquiries about links with South Africa.

Their actions would hamper economic flexibility and force more into the black economy or, more simply, out of work altogether.

The Bill would also stop local authorities creating companies of convenience to sell their assets to and then lease them back, in order to get round the law. It would also enable local councils to rate energy installations.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab), opposing the Bill, said that trying to secure national debate in the House on contract compliance was like seeking to advocate temperance in the Strangers' Bar.

It was not an alien doctrine brought in from the Soviet Union as some suggested. The House of Commons itself passed the fair wages resolution, which amounted to contract compliance, and the London County Council, forerunner of the GLC, had done the same.

Even the present Government, which was trying to reduce the country to a state of economic anarchy, was prepared to retain a residual element of contract compliance.

The idea was based on an experiment in the United States under President Roosevelt. More recently, President Reagan had launched an onslaught against contract compliance, but had been defeated. The same fate should befall "this cheap little Bill".

The Bill was read a first time.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Scottish Office, Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill, remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Debates on creating a sense of unity in the UK and on the situation in the Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied areas.

Volunteers in tests to find out about air disaster risks

By Peter Davenport

A thousand civilian volunteers are being recruited for a series of tests aimed at producing new safety guidelines for air travel.

Operation Exit is intended to produce the most realistic record yet of the reactions of ordinary travellers when confronted by emergencies such as happened in the Manchester airport disaster.

In five days of trials the volunteers will be subjected to a range of emergencies on board an aircraft with their reactions monitored by cameras. Details of exactly how the tests will match real conditions are being kept secret so that the reactions of those involved will be as realistic as possible.

In the past there has been criticism of evacuation tests carried out by aircraft manufacturers for certification purposes because they have tended to use their own employees or military personnel familiar with aircraft.

The results have been considered unrealistic for a plane full of ordinary passengers, some of whom may be flying for the first time.

The new tests are to be conducted on board a Trident aircraft at Teesside airport

later this month. They will look at the problems of evacuation highlighted by the incident at Manchester 18 months ago in which 55 passengers died when a jet caught fire as it made its take-off run.

The tests have been organized by Dr James Vant, of Linacre College, Oxford, an expert in the study of accidents, as part of research funded by British and foreign safety equipment manufacturers and backed by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Air Transport Users' Committee.

Yesterday Dr Vant said the tests would be unique in that, for the first time, they would involve ordinary civilians.

Volunteers are being recruited through local advertising and will be aged between 18 and 50. The tests are expected to cost about £150,000.

Observers from the CAA and the Department of Transport's accident investigation branch will be joined by representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, the French cabin attendants' union, large airlines and the aircraft manufacturing industry.

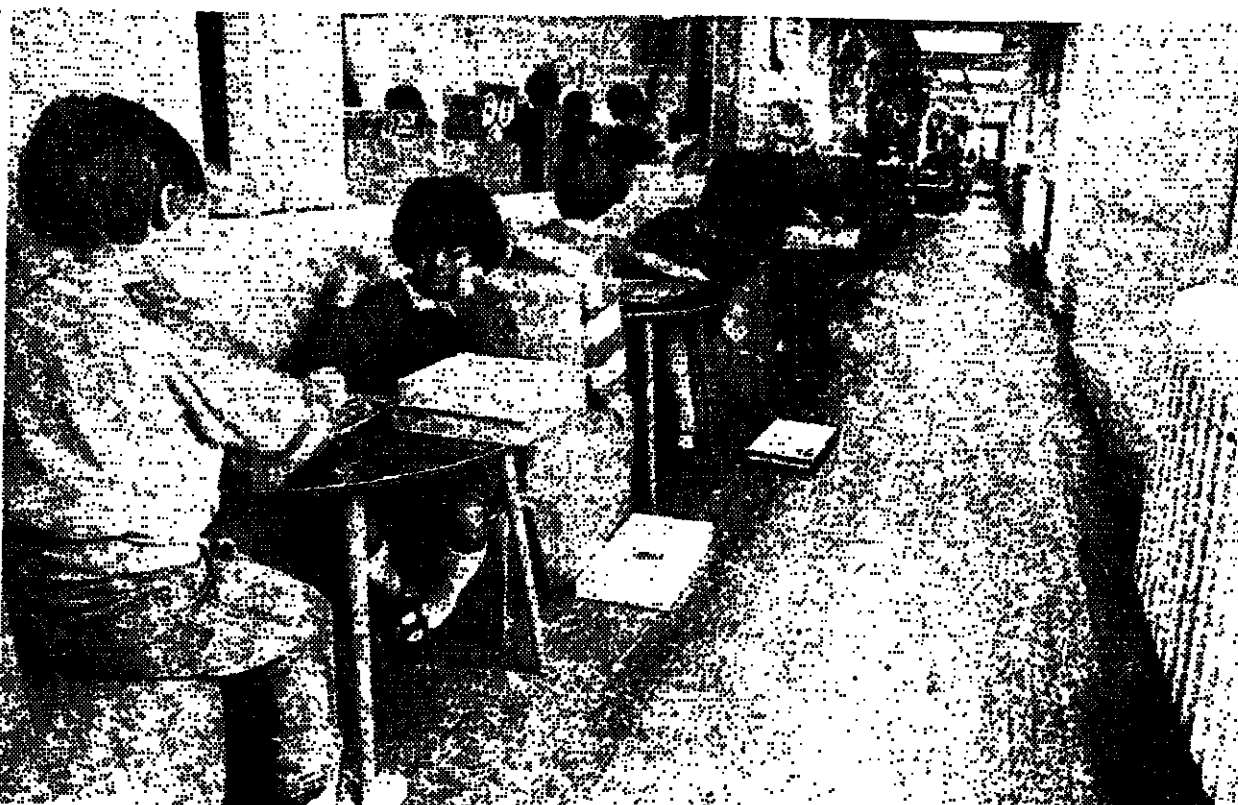
One of the organizers, Mr Derek Dempster, of the Air Transport Users' Committee, said yesterday that many more lives could have been saved in aircraft accidents during the past 20 years if evacuation tests had been more representative of the ordinary passenger.

Airline campaigns to stay at Gatwick

A lobby campaign has been launched by Britain's second biggest airline to pre-empt any government move to switch charter flights from London's crowded Gatwick airport (Our Air Correspondent writes).

Luton-based Britannia Airways, which flew 5.5 million passengers last year and claims to be twice the size of British Caledonian, fears that plans are being drawn up to switch holiday flights from Gatwick to Stansted or other regional airports.

The company has written to MPs of all parties urging them to resist the plan, and says that non-scheduled charter airlines, which carry 65 per cent of all passengers within Europe, are in danger of being ignored in the drive towards cheaper fares and better services for business passengers.



Pupils at Flixton working in what one parent describes as the "chaos" of a corridor (Photograph: Barry Greenwood).

Corridor classes at yesterday's school

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

A "bulge" of pupils aged six and seven has forced teachers at Flixton Infants School, Manchester, to turn a corridor into a classroom for 18 children in rotation.

One parent, Mrs Marilyn Connor, has refused to allow her daughter, Jenny aged six, to sit in the corridor classroom again.

"After one week in the draughty corridor she had

earache and a bad cough", she said. "It is chaos. At first they had children sitting on the floor. They are sandwiched in between the head's and school secretary's offices, the boys' toilet, the biscuit cupboard and the main cloakroom."

"Every time a child goes to the toilet or a teacher gets biscuits for break the children in the corridor are distracted."

A spokesman for Trafford

Education Authority said that the open-plan arrangement was part of the council's "education philosophy" of using every available space.

Mrs Edith Hope, the headmistress, said: "I strongly deny that we are offering a make-do education."

"The children consider it a privilege to sit in what they call the '18-group' and for a

week at a time they do very exciting work there with our excellent deputy head."

She said: "Yes, we do need more space. But yesterday's

schools - this one is 50 years old - do not match today's educational needs and the children are getting very good learning experience. The most important resource is the teaching staff and we have

very skilled teachers."

TV college gets £15m for job training

By Our Education Reporter

The Open College, which will offer work-related courses on all four television channels, is to receive £15 million for its first year, Lord Young of Grafton announced yesterday.

The Secretary of State for Employment said the Government intended the college to become self-financing inside three years by charging fees to students and winning sponsorship from industry.

Mr Michael Green, the college's chairman, said six main companies are now considering sponsorship.

"I look to employers to see the college as a potential for major investment", Lord Young said yesterday, launching the college's first prospectus at a London vocational training conference.

He said: "The Open College heralds a new era of learning in this country. For the first time in broadcasting, many thousands of people will be able to develop their own skills in ways they never thought possible."

The college will begin in September with 30 courses ranging from information technology and management skills to literacy and numeracy courses aimed chiefly at the one in four long-term unemployed with basic reading and writing difficulties.

Dock men accept new owners

The transport union yesterday promised that the 17,500 workers at Rosyth and Devonport dockyards would work with their new employers after privatization of the yards.

Mr Jack Dromey, national secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said: "We never wanted them as employers, but now that they are, we will work with them accordingly."

He was speaking after he had been in the High Court yesterday to hear Mr Justice Millett urge the unions to work with their new employers and criticize Mr Dromey for "flogging a dead horse".

Last Friday, the judge gave approval for the privatization. On Monday the management of Devonport was transferred to Devonport Management, a private group headed by the British subsidiary of the US-offshore group, Brown and Root, and the management of Rosyth went to Babcock Thorn.

Yesterday the judge gave his reasons for refusing on Friday to delay the transfer. Six unions, led by the TGWU, had sought a declaration that Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, had failed to comply with consultation requirements.

The judge said that the Secretary of State had "sought in good faith not merely to comply with his statutory obligations, but to go well beyond them".

He said: "From the first to the last, as Jack Dromey frankly told me, the unions' policy was to prevent the introduction of commercial management by all lawful and democratic means at their disposal, short of industrial action."

The judge said: "Mr Dromey told me he could tell a dead horse when he saw one. I think he recognized it all right, but in accordance with union policy, he went on flogging it all the same."

Teacher 'confessed to killing'

A schoolteacher broke down in the back of a police car and confessed to killing a mother and her baby daughter with an axe, it was alleged in court yesterday.

Heather Arnold, aged 50, admitted the killings as she was driven to Wiltshire police headquarters after her arrest, a woman detective constable told Bristol Crown Court.

Officers were taking Mrs Arnold from her daughter's home in Stone, Staffordshire to Devizes for questioning about the deaths of Mrs Jeanne Sutcliffe, aged 39, and her daughter, Heidi, aged eight months.

Both were found with their throats cut at their home in The Butts, Westbury, Wiltshire.

Woman Detective Constable Caroline Enright said that Mrs Arnold was sitting in the back of the car when she began weeping.

Mrs Arnold then broke down and admitted killing Mrs Sutcliffe, who was the wife of a teaching colleague, Mr Paul Sutcliffe, Constable Enright said.

The court was told that Mrs Arnold had arrived at Devizes and signed notes taken of the alleged confession.

But Constable Enright said that later on the same day Mrs Arnold, in the presence of her solicitor, denied having gone to the Sutcliffes' house on April 30 last year, the day of the killings.

In the later conversation Mrs Arnold allegedly told police: "I cannot believe I would do that to anyone, let alone a baby. If you say I did that I must be mad. I do not remember calling on Jeanne at all."

Earlier the court was told that Mrs Arnold had denied having an affair with Mr Sutcliffe, a colleague at Kingdown comprehensive school in Warminster, Wiltshire.

The trial continues today.

2,000 museums unite in call for more funds

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

More than 2,000 local museums have launched a campaign costing £30,000 to persuade the Government to double their grants before the end of the decade.

Mr Frank Atkinson, the leader of the campaign, said it was also aimed at encouraging public support for museums and pointing out their beneficial effect on education, employment and tourism.

"If museums are to attract more private sponsorship then central government must help", he said yesterday.

A report by the Museum and Galleries Commission in 1984 called on the Government to double its grants to the seven English councils, to £5 million by 1990. Similar increases are sought for the Scottish and Welsh councils.

Mr Peter Longman, secretary of the commission, said that so far increases had been limited to 2.5 per cent.

Mr Longman said there was a growing disparity between support for national and local museums and galleries. While 25 big institutions received about £140 million in funds from all public sources each year, the 2,000 regional museums had to share a total of £7 million, he said.

Mr Michael Foot, the Labour MP, expressing support for the campaign, accused the Government of criminal stupidity in reducing support for the arts.

Letters from four British monarchs, and state papers from the Civil Wars, are among more than 34,000 documents spanning seven centuries which have been accepted in lieu of tax.

The documents comprise the Portland Archive, from the estate of the Duchess of Portland, Ivy Cavendish-Bentinck, who died in 1982. The tax settlement was £1,367,500.

They include letters from James I, James II, Charles I and Charles II.

Richard Todd, the actor, is fighting to save a memorial museum to the RAF's Dambusters from the bulldozers, only three days after he opened it.

Mr Todd, who played the Dambusters' leader, Wing Commander Guy Gibson, VC, in the film about Barnes Wallis, inventor of the bouncing bomb, said yesterday: "If anything happens to this place it will be a crying shame."

Mr Todd carried out the official opening at the museum in Grantham, Lincolnshire, where the raids were planned, on Sunday. Then on Monday it was disclosed that the new owners of the building, St Vincent House, former No 5 Group Bomber Command headquarters, planned to demolish it.

**Brother,
can you
spare a
dime?**

WORDS BY E.V. HARRBURG
MUSIC BY JAY CORNEY

**WE'RE
IN THE
MONEY**

Words by Al Rubin
Music by Harry Warren

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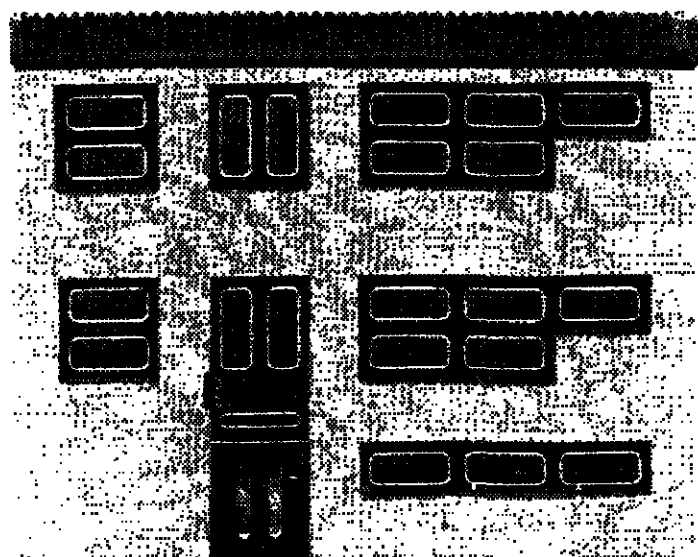
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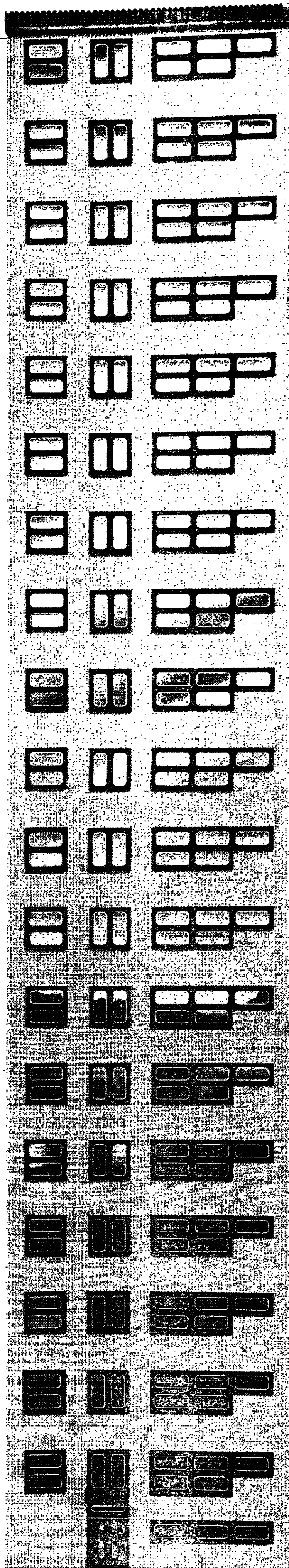
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WORLD SUMMARY

Kohl pledge on Nazi genocide

Bonn — Chancellor Kohl told President Herzog of Israel yesterday that the Nazi Holocaust was the "darkest chapter in German history" (John England writes).

He added: "We know also that the crime of that genocide in its cold, inhuman planning and deathly efficiency was unique in the history of mankind... We never want to forget the Nazi crimes. We shall also resist every attempt to suppress or play them down."

Herr Kohl, speaking in his Bonn chancellery at a lunch for Mr Herzog on the second day of the President's five-day visit to West Germany, also welcomed growing Israeli interest in an international peace conference on the Middle East as called for by EEC foreign ministers in February. Palestinian demands for self-determination were justified, he said, just as the Germans demanded that right for themselves.

Riot over Egypt poll

Cairo (AP) — Riots over the ruling National Democratic Party's poll tactics broke out for the second successive day as the party built up a solid lead in early returns from Monday's parliamentary election.

Security sources said that 11 people were injured, including four policemen, a baby girl hit by birdshot and a woman who was shot, when about 1,000 people rioted in Kasr al-Dwar, an industrial town south of Alexandria. The sources said about 500 police backed by armoured personnel carriers used tear gas against the rock-throwing crowd.

In Cairo a senior official said the NDP had established its expected solid lead in early returns, "see-sawing between 75 and 80 per cent" of the total vote.

Call for sanctions

New York — African front-line states have renewed their demands in the UN Security Council for an economic and diplomatic blockade of South Africa (Zoriana Pysariwsky writes).

Zimbabwe, Zambia and Angola accused Western countries of deliberately evoking an image of Southern Africa under economic siege to buy time for Pretoria.

They claimed they were ready to bear the burden of sanctions, including Pretoria's counter-measures.

Squatters arrested

Amsterdam (Reuters) — About 750 policemen in riot gear stormed an illegally-occupied building in central Amsterdam yesterday and evicted the eight occupants, arresting five of them and two of their supporters.

Several hundred supporters turned out to help resist the eviction. Dutch television showed the occupants throwing red paint and oil from the heavily-barricaded building on the Singel canal. The police gained access via the roof and worked their way down the building.

Forest cloning boost

Helsinki (Reuters) — Finnish researchers yesterday announced a method of cloning birch trees which could have a huge impact on the world's forestry industry.

Three companies, which have worked for several years on cloning, said the first 20,000 cloned seedlings of selected birch trees will be set out this summer. They said they are also working on ways of cloning pine and spruce trees.

Cloning reproduces plants and organisms by non-sexual means, faithfully reproducing features of the original specimen. The potential impact of improved methods of cloning on forests is enormous. The Finnish technique could boost commercial yield and allow people to decide exactly how their wooded environment should look.

Ear eaten by cat

Delhi — Hospital patients in India face a wide range of risks but the fate of Mrs Rajwanti Jain, aged 65, is bizarre (Michael Hamlyn writes). A cat chewed her ear off in the night.

She was brought into Jayaprakash Narayan hospital, in Delhi, unconscious with meningitis, but when her son, Mr Vijay Kumar, visited her the next day he found her right ear was missing. Then he noticed a cat nearby nibbling at his mother's ear.

Premier keeps job

Castries, St Lucia (AP) — Preliminary figures show that Mr John Compton narrowly retained the post of Prime Minister in balloting on Monday in the tiny Caribbean nation of St Lucia, the Election Commission said.

Mr Compton, of the United Workers Party, carried nine of the 17 election districts. The opposition St Lucia Labour Party carried eight.

The vote tally was being recounted yesterday.

Castro shuns profits

Havana (Reuters) — President Castro, right, said yesterday that market economy mechanisms being used in some communist countries were not valid for Cuba.

"Profits, profits, profits — what has that got to do with the revolution?" he asked the Union of Young Communists. The belief that economic mechanisms can build socialism and stimulate development was "idiotic and stupid".



Hi-tech 'gold rush' is foreseen for Arctic

From Tony Samstag, Oslo

The discovery of one of the world's scarcest substances in the northern Norwegian province of Finnmark has inspired newspaper predictions here of a new high-technology "gold rush" in the Arctic.

The Geological Survey of Norway says it has monitored what may be the world's only large natural deposit of scandium, after "radioactive anomalies" were noticed during a survey of regional uranium reserves.

Scandium, a white metallic element with a market price

said to be at least twice as high as gold, is normally found in tiny amounts as an extraction byproduct of uranium and some other minerals.

It has an extremely high melting point, becomes stronger when alloyed with aluminium or magnesium.

The aerospace industry has an insatiable demand for scandium, but annual world production is measured in tens of kilos. Dr Svein Olerud, of the survey's Trondheim office, thinks there might be as much as five tonnes in Finnmark.

Prince breaks camp in the desert

From Andrew McEwen, Gaborone

The Prince of Wales yesterday broke camp and headed for home after five days in the wilderness of the Kalahari Desert with his octogenarian friend Sir Laurens van der Post. The South African author.

They had camped in temperatures of up to 100 F surrounded by wildlife at the evocatively named Deception Pan, a shallow trough at the heart of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve.

Noted for its wildebeest, giraffe, and gemsbok, the Pan is remote from facilities of any kind, the nearest modern settlement being about 100 miles away.

Elaborate precautions were taken against risks of an accident or attack by wild animals. The Prince and author were escorted by a doctor and a policeman, and a helicopter was on stand-by. Radio-telephone facilities and emergency medical supplies were set up.

Although theoretically closed to people other than tourists, the game reserve is the home of nomadic Bushmen, who live by collecting desert plants and hunting with small bows and arrows and are a recurring theme in the works of Sir Laurens. Smaller, lighter-skinned and culturally

Al Capone's successors call in the computer experts

From Charles Bremner
Chicago

Life was less complicated for the Chicago Mob when Al Capone could take care of a little business rivalry by sending over John Scalisi and the boys to wipe out some of Bugs Moran's gang in a Chicago garage.

With their profits sagging and their operations under increasing scrutiny from deft FBI intelligence agents, Capone's successors have just begun using experts skilled in sophisticated business techniques to run their rackets.

FBI sources in Chicago this week said that underworld informers had given them a full picture of the Syndicate's move to Wall Street methods.

The bosses of the multi-million-dollar-a-year mob operation, which

makes its biggest profits from gambling and extortion, decided to streamline and modernize their activities after their hit men bungled the rub-out of two Las Vegas crime bosses.

The battered bodies of Anthony Spilotro and his brother Michael were found in an Indiana cornfield last August.

The FBI said that the man reputed to head the Chicago Syndicate, Mr Joseph Ferriola, aged 60, had ordered the killings in what was meant to be a quiet takeover of the Spilotros' lucrative Las Vegas operations.

"The plan was that the bodies were never to be found and Ferriola would name a temporary boss to handle the Las Vegas operations," an FBI source told *The Chicago Tribune*.

As part of the plot, the mob fed

phony information to the FBI that Spilotro and his brother were being spotted in Europe spending money looted from the mob.

The discovery of their bodies, near Chicago, is said to have cost the mob millions of dollars in lost takings and discredited Mr Ferriola. This was the last straw for the "elder statesman" of the Syndicate, already suffering attrition from convictions, old age and FBI penetration.

The Chicago Mob, which sees itself as the defendant of the colourful gangsters of the Prohibition days, wants to avoid the fate of its Mafia colleagues in New York. There, federal prosecutors have effectively crippled the operations of the old Italian families through an all-out war on "traditional" organized crime.

The FBI says there are only 42 "made" members of the Syndicate

left. A mobster is said to be made when he is initiated into the Syndicate. There are 400 junior members or associates.

The mob leaders took advice, among others, from Mr Joseph Aiuppa, aged 79, a veteran now serving a 28-year term in a prison hospital room for stealing \$2 million (£1.25 million) from a Las Vegas casino. The Syndicate's former boss, Mr Anthony Accardo, aged 81, was consulted also, the FBI said.

Under the revamping Mr Ferriola has been moved from chief executive to a role as chairman. Two respected "legitimate" businessmen, hand-picked by the mob, have been given responsibility for running all operations except gangland "hits", which remain under the exclusive control of the bosses.

The FBI has been unable to identify the pair, who are said to be

experienced in the latest accounting and computing techniques. Their objectives are to identify the most cost-effective and lowest-risk crimes and how best to invest the proceeds.

This area is under close scrutiny from an increasingly sophisticated FBI and internal revenue investigation which often extends to the activities of banks and corporations in Europe, the Far East and Caribbean.

Mr Ferriola is said to retain responsibility for supervising the betting operations in the Chicago area, which are said to net \$150 million a year for the underworld.

In addition to strategy and investment management, the businessmen will have direct control of major robberies against targets such as armoured cars and trucks, burglaries and fencing stolen goods, the FBI said.

Applause from refugees as Syrians march into Chatila

Beirut (Reuters) — Scores of Syrian troops marched into the battered Chatila Palestinian refugee camp in Beirut yesterday in an effort to quell five months of fighting in the "camps war", witnesses said.

Dozens of Chatila residents clapped as more than 50 soldiers brandishing assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade-launchers walked past. A senior Syrian officer, Colonel Abdel Salam Darghastani, led the men into Chatila's muddy alleyways, where he and other officers had already mapped out four positions.

More than 7,000 Syrian troops were sent into west Beirut in February, but had not intervened to halt Syrian-backed Amal's conflict with Palestinian guerrillas.

Fighting in the camps war has killed nearly 900 people since September, and the 3,200 residents of Chatila also suffered critical shortages of food, water and medicine after Amal blockaded the camp on October 29.

The Syrian reconnaissance of Chatila was agreed at a meeting between Syrian observers, Amal officials and representatives of the pro-Syrian Palestine National Salvation Front.

Beirut radio stations said the accord provided for Syrian troops to deploy at four points around Chatila and to occupy at least one position at nearby Bourj al-Barajneh camp to guarantee freedom of movement for the refugees.

Rescue workers were due to evacuate wounded from Bourj al-Barajneh, home to about 12,000 refugees, but Palestinian sources said this might now take place after the Syrian deployment.

Plans for the evacuation were made after Kuwaiti relief supplies reached Chatila on Monday, despite sniper fire which killed one man and wounded two others.

Political analysts said the latest Syrian moves indicated that Damascus, which supports Amal, was determined to end the bruising camps war in Beirut and south Lebanon. They said the presence of Syrian troops at camp entrances would lift the blockades imposed by Amal since October.

A senior Amal official, Mr Haniham Jumaa, responded cautiously earlier, when asked about a possible Syrian deployment, saying it would occur "when the Palestinians withdraw totally from all areas east of Sidon. Then Amal will lift its military siege."

"Amal has agreed to a total ceasefire, to lift the food blockade and to allow all humanitarian measures — but the Syrian deployment will come only with the withdrawal of guerrillas east of Sidon."

Further, he gave the strong

Joy abroad, but only hope at home



A happy Mrs Tatiana Osipova, above, being kissed by her husband, Mr Ivan Kopalev, on arrival at Vienna by air from the Soviet Union; while in Moscow two Jewish refugees, Mr Vladimir Slepak, a radio engineer, and his wife demonstrate for permission to emigrate.



US Army introduces spycatcher hotline

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

The US Army is establishing a telephone hotline to help catch spies and uncover security risks. Specially trained agents will take the calls to "spy" and prepare reports for their superiors, who will then decide whether to investigate.

The Army was widely criticized in the early 1970s for compiling dossiers on civilians protesting against the Vietnam War. This time, safeguards have been instituted to avoid similar criticisms. All evidence of inquiries that draw a blank, for example, will be destroyed after 90 days.

The idea was discussed by the Army following the celebrated Walker spy-ringing trial last year, after which the Soviet Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the planned visit to Moscow by the French Prime Minister, M Jacques Chirac, next month was not helped by what it called an anti-Soviet campaign in France (Reuters reports).

military services reviewed their security measures and senior Army officers reported an increase in attempts by Soviet and East European intelligence services to recruit American soldiers. The current Marine spy case at the US Embassy in Moscow has heightened alarm about security breaches.

● MOSCOW: Two Congressmen probing espionage problems at the US Embassy in Moscow said yesterday that the building is a "firetrap" with a flawed security system that can be overridden by two people (AP reports).

At a news conference, Mr Dan Mica, a Florida Democrat, and Ms Olympia Snowe, a Maine Republican, said embassy security "is fundamentally flawed both in physical and personnel areas".

● MARINE FREED: A military issue yesterday ordered a third Marine arrested in the Moscow embassy sex-and-spy scandal to be released pending disposal of his case. Pentagon sources said (AP reports).

The sources said the magistrate found "insufficient cause" to detain Staff Sergeant Robert Stufflebeam, aged 24.

Pentagon plan for Honduras

From Christopher Thomas
Washington

The US military is seeking another \$65 million (£43 million) for construction work in Honduras over the next five years, including a swimming pool and basketball courts, to make life more comfortable for a "temporary yet indefinite" presence in Central America's poorest country.

There is deep concern on Capitol Hill about America's *de facto* presence in Honduras. There is no formal agreement for continual US military entanglement and Congress has never formally sanctioned a permanent presence.

Almost non-stop building by military engineers has created new air strips, bridges, roads and radar facilities over the past six years.

General John Galvin, commander of the US Southern Command, said in congressional testimony that military construction in Honduras this year would cost \$4.4 million, entirely for "quality of life improvements". It would include a new clinic, dining facilities, a recreation centre, barracks for 300 soldiers and a sewage treatment facility.

The five-year plan includes fuel and parking areas at four of the 10 Honduran airfields the US has helped to improve at a cost of \$20 million.

Mr Richard Armitage, Assistant Secretary of Defence for international security affairs, acknowledged that the US neither plans to stay nor leave Honduras. His remark angered some congressmen who believe they should have more control over military involvement in Honduras.

unlike the majority tribes of Botswana, they have resisted all government efforts to integrate them.

The Government, which puts the Bushmen's numbers at about 1,200, is determined to build settlements for them outside the game reserve. This has caused a strong local protest on grounds that it would destroy their culture.

The royal party was due to be collected by helicopter yesterday and taken to Orapa, Botswana's second-largest diamond mine. From there, the Prince was to fly to Gaborone to visit President Masire before flying home.

Reagan concessions delight Canada

From John Best
Ottawa

President Reagan's two-day visit to Ottawa turned out to be an exercise in gift-giving beyond the expectations — and perhaps the dreams — of his host, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney.

Mr Reagan delighted the Prime Minister by bending on two important issues that have long bedevilled US-Canadian relations: acid rain and Arctic sovereignty.

Further, he gave the stron-

gest presidential boost yet to the idea of a free trade zone between the US and Canada, a project which is dear to the heart of Mr Mulroney and will probably be a big issue in the next Canadian election.

Mr Reagan, who arrived back in Washington on Monday night, devoted nearly a third of his speech to Parliament earlier in the day to the free trade plan.

He predicted that Mr Mulroney's "far-sighted" proposal will prove no less his-

toric than initiatives that gave birth to such organizations as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Monetary Fund, and the EEC in the 1940s and 1950s.

The President gave Mr Mulroney more reason to cheer with an addition to the prepared text of his address to Parliament.

He said his Government would consider a Canada-US accord to curb acid rain, the airborne chemical pollution

which kills rivers, lakes and forests.

In a further addition to his text, Mr Reagan pledged to "give impetus" to Canada-US negotiations on the touchy issue of Canada's claim to sovereignty over the North West Passage.

The Americans have historically disputed Canada's claim to the ice-bound passage, arguing that it is an international strait, but Mr Reagan appeared to soften that stand somewhat.

The Turkish economy

Instability imperils progress

From Nicholas Beeston and Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

Turkey's rapid economic reform could succeed in turning this fledgling democracy into a modern capitalist state, but progress is threatened by the spectre of political instability, according to economists and analysts here.

As Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister, gears up the economy for a general election by next year, he is faced with a host of economic problems, including an inflation rate expected to top 30 per cent this year and a foreign debt of \$20 billion.

Despite these problems, compounded by 16 per cent unemployment and a population growth of 2.8 per cent a year, observers are confident that since taking office in 1983 Mr Ozal has "set the economy on the right path".

"The economy is strong and getting stronger," one diplomat said, who cited the country's jump in exports from \$2 billion (£1.2 billion) in 1979 to \$8 billion in 1985.

But he and other observers warned that Turkey's "violent" political history of three military coups since 1960 made foreign investors hesitant about committing themselves to long-term projects.

To take Turkey beyond the point of possible return to the unsettled period of the 1970s, Mr Ozal has started to build the country's infrastructure in tandem with political lib-

eralization. He hopes in the end to make Turkey more compatible with the EEC, which he will apply to join before the end of this year.

The Government has embarked on a programme of building 70 dams for hydro-electric power and irrigation, a new bridge across the Bosphorus and an improvement of the country's highway system. At least 60 per cent of the dam projects are being concentrated in the traditionally neglected region of south-

eastern Turkey, where it is hoped that political instability caused by resentment in the minority Kurdish community will be appeased by economic improvement.

"Ozal frankly believes that Turkey's future lies with these big projects," said Professor Erol Masmali, the director at the Centre for European and Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Istanbul.

"The majority of academics and economists believe he is right, even though some of them might be reluctant to admit it," he added.

Similar improvements to the system of taxation and to

the infrastructure of the tourist industry are taking place at a rapid rate.

Although 1986 was a poor year for tourism in Turkey — with revenues down by 17.7 per cent on 1985 — the Government is confident that the country will pass the \$2 billion mark this year.

Many of the new developments of Turkey's southern Mediterranean coast are being sponsored by government officials in the hope of attracting European tourists.

"One British tour operator sent 5,000 tourists here last year but in 1987 they are hoping to bring over 50,000," said Mr David Tonge, a British consultant of the Istanbul-based International Business Services.

The new westward-looking Turkey has been prompted by Mr Ozal's political ideology and also a gradual drying up of its export markets to the Middle East because of the slump in oil prices.

Iran and Iraq alone used to account for 25 per cent of Turkey's exports, but exports to Islamic countries fell by 23 per cent in 1986. Economists predict that Mr Ozal will have to tackle the problem of rising domestic growth, external debt and inflation; but they argue that these are containable given the correct administration.

Exile for leader of banned party

Ankara — Mr Alpaskan Turkes, a former Turkish deputy Prime Minister and the leader of the banned Nationalist Action Party, was jailed for 11 years, one month and ten days at the end here yesterday of a six-year trial of right-wing extremists better known to Europe as the "grey wolves" (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

The military court also sentenced him to internal exile of identical length, and banned

him from public office for life.

His sentence appears to be minutely calculated so that he would not go into jail again under new parole regulations.

Five militants were sentenced to death and nine others to life imprisonment, while 221 defendants were jailed for terms between a few months and 36 years, and 145 others were acquitted.



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Spain's labour unrest

Madrid traffic chaos as protests spread over government pay limits

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

More than 300 private ambulances caused traffic chaos as they drove through central Madrid yesterday with sirens screaming in a protest over a 5 per cent pay rise limit set by the Government to help bring down inflation.

Madrid underground railway workers also went on strike yesterday, and car workers at the Renault and General Motors plants downed tools, rejecting a wage offer and demanding lighter shifts.

Hundreds of medical students unhappy over directives on qualifications invaded the Barcelona stock exchange and disrupted trading, and 8,000 doctors in country areas began a two-day strike over working conditions.

Protests and stoppages yesterday also involved shipyard workers, with the Government facing a week-long offensive launched by the Communist-run Workers' Commissions to get one million workers out on Friday.

Strikes by ground staffs of Iberia, the state airline, and of the domestic airline, will go ahead on Friday to coincide with a nationwide stoppage on

Renfe, the state railways, after pay negotiations collapsed.

Señor José Cuevas, chairman of Spain's Employers' Confederation, yesterday came to the aid of the Socialist Government amid the latest industrial strife.

Warning of the damage to Spain and the risk of discouraging foreign investments, Señor Cuevas said the strikers' aim was not primarily one of securing wage settlements, but to "wear down" politically the Government of Señor Felipe González.

Señor Carlos Solchaga, the



Señor Solchaga detects challenge by unions.

Economics and Finance Minister, clearly now regards the unrest as a straight challenge by the trade unions to the Government's authority.

One of his problems is the absence of efficient arbitration machinery in Spain and the ease with which strikes can be called, a natural consequence of democracy after decades of trade union repression by the Franco regime.

The medical students who temporarily stopped dealing on Barcelona's stock exchange were continuing a protest against an EEC directive which will oblige them to do two years' practical training in hospitals in addition to six years of theory, as now, before they can qualify, like doctors in other EEC countries.

In Reinos, the small town in northern Spain where industrial restructuring has produced violent clashes between workers and the paramilitary Civil Guard, the Socialist mayor yesterday toned down his previous tough approach and promised that the Madrid Industry Ministry was now seeking a solution.

Pope singles out Argentine President for praise

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires



An escort police motorcyclist sprawling on the ground near the cathedral in central Buenos Aires after colliding with a horse in front of the Pope's car.

The Pope yesterday began a gruelling three-day tour of Argentine provinces following an emotional welcome in Buenos Aires, which he last visited during the final days of the Falklands war.

On Monday night the Pope said the debt crisis of the developing countries posed a threat to world peace. "The international debt problem requires an ethical approach that emphasizes the responsibility of all those involved, as well as the profound interdependence of human progress," he said.

"If we cannot reach a harmonious and adequate development that is shared by all nations, we will not be able to establish the basis of a solid and lasting peace," he added.

Earlier, at a meeting with the country's political leaders, the Pope emphasized the moral responsibility of governments, a message of particular significance in a country where at least 10,000 people disappeared during the former military regime's campaign against subversion.

He appeared tired but in

good humour after a tense six-day visit to Chile, where anti-government demonstrators disrupted a papal Mass last Friday near Santiago.

Significantly, the Pope publicly praised President Alfonsín, a courtesy he had not extended to Chile's President Pinochet.

The Pope is particularly well liked here because of the successful mediation role he played in avoiding war between Chile and Argentina over the Beagle Channel islands. His brief visit here in 1982, just days before the country acknowledged defeat in the Falklands war, was particularly appreciated. Buenos Aires has been awash with Argentine and papal flags for weeks.

Yesterday the Pope offered a Mass before an estimated 350,000 worshippers in Bahía Blanca before flying to Viedma, where the new Argentine capital will be built. He also visited the wine-making region of Mendoza, ending the day in Córdoba, an intellectual and industrial centre.

Controversy in Catholic Church

Clergy blamed for role in 'dirty war'

From Eduardo Cué, Buenos Aires

The Pope's visit to Argentina comes at a time when the country's Roman Catholic Church is embroiled in controversy over its strong support of the former military dictatorship.

The Pope made a hastily arranged trip here in 1982 in the middle of the Falklands war, a voyage whose main purpose was to maintain the Vatican's even-handed policy towards the two antagonists following an earlier papal visit to Britain.

Much has changed in Argentina since then. The generals have been replaced by a democratically-elected Government, five former top military commanders are

bishops, he said, not only refused to condemn publicly such practices but in some cases actually justified the military's tactics, including the use of torture.

"The bishops were the only force in a position to speak out without fear of reprisal," he said. "A bishop has a moral responsibility that goes beyond that of a simple citizen."

"The military regime claimed to be defending Christian values and could not have continued its actions under open criticism from the bishops."

Señor Mignone, a devout Catholic, contends that the authoritarianism of the Argentine Church prevented parish priests from acting on their own to help the families of missing persons. "Priests, for example, could not open their churches to human rights groups," he said.

Other observers are more restrained in their criticism but now the majority of Argentines are convinced that the Church should have condemned the abuses more forcefully. The role being played by the Chilean Catholic Church in opposing President Pinochet is frequently cited as an example of the position the Church here should have taken.

The bishops themselves have not responded to the criticism. Supporters argue that the Church has been unfairly chastised while other influential sectors of the society, including journalists and politicians, have escaped criticism even though they knew abuses were taking place and remained silent.

Despite the hierarchy's support for the military, a limited number of bishops and priests openly criticized the regime's tactics and attempted to save victims. Frequently, they paid with their own blood.

At least 19 Argentine priests and two French nuns were

Leading bishops justified the military's tactics

either killed or disappeared during the years of the "dirty war". Despite strong evidence of the military's responsibility in at least some of the cases, the highest Church authorities refused to call for independent investigation into the cases.

For many observers here the basic problem lies in the many ties that intertwine the Church and state, a situation similar to that which existed in Franco's Spain.

The Argentine Constitution requires that the President be Catholic and obliges the state to support the Roman Catholic Church. It was not until 1966 that a concordat between the Vatican and the state formally ended the President's right to appoint bishops.

The last military regime effectively placed bishops on the state payroll by granting them a direct salary, funded seminars, and introduced scholarships for men studying for the priesthood. The measures remain in force still.

At least 10,000 people disappeared in the campaign

serving prison sentences for human rights violations and basic civil liberties have been restored.

However, while the military has been discredited in the public eye since the Falklands defeat, only now is attention turning to the role played by the powerful Catholic Church during the 1976 to 1983 dictatorship.

"We are accused of not having been clear enough in word and action," admits Bishop Justo Oscar Laguna, a moderate who frequently met the military to complain about human rights abuses. "We are perceived by the public as having been too close to the military."

More than 90 per cent of Argentina's 30 million people are baptised Catholics but only about 10 per cent attend Mass regularly. The return of democracy has brought with it an increased search for alternatives to the traditional Church. Brazilian-style sects, with an emphasis on individual healing, are growing rapidly and American evangelical groups, which have expanded for 10 years, continue to attract new converts.

"The Argentine Church hierarchy has slowly become a very conservative, mediocre and fearful institution that does not know how to live in a pluralistic society," remarked Señor Emilio Mignone, author of *Church and Dictatorship*, a highly critical book on the close relationship between the Church and the military.

"If the bishops, in the crucial moments of the coup, had acted with honesty and energy they would have saved thousands of lives," Señor Mignone, a well-known lawyer and human rights activist, said. At least 10,000 people disappeared during the military's "dirty war" against terrorism, including Señor Mignone's daughter, Monica.

The author spares no names to buttress his argument that the country's highest ecclesiastical authorities were aware that the military had set up clandestine detention centres where thousands of suspects kidnapped by security forces were tortured and killed.

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Canberra fears Libyan moves into Pacific

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

An attempt by Libya to extend its influence in the Pacific region, which includes offering paramilitary training to island nations, has suddenly emerged as a big Australian Government concern.

Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, said yesterday that Libya's initiative was founded on its promotion of "terrorism and unrest". Earlier, Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, said the Government was concerned that islanders from one of the world's more benign regions had gone to Libya for training.

Mr Hayden said Canberra

was worried in particular about Libyan activity in the relatively volatile areas of New Caledonia — where Kanak nationalists are seeking to secede from France — and Irian Jaya, the Indonesian section of New Guinea, which also has a secessionist guerrilla movement.

Precisely what the Libyans have achieved so far is unclear. But yesterday the Melbourne newspaper *The Age* said Tripoli was expected to establish an embassy in Vanuatu within a few weeks. A Libyan delegation visited the capital of Port Vila three weeks ago.

Sikh fanatics wage war of terror on drink and tobacco in Punjab

A new form of terrorism is afflicting the already ravaged north Indian state of Punjab. Sikh fanatics are forcing the external regulations of their religion on the public at large by burning tobacco shops and liquor stores and killing their employees.

The Sikh gurus spoke against the evils of drink and tobacco — smoking in particular is regarded as taboo to a religious Sikh. In the new campaign more than 60 liquor stores have been already burnt, a large number of tobacco stands have been put to the torch, and their employees or owners have often died in the flames.

For example, a liquor store in Dharival Soina village, in the Gurdaspur district, was smashed by four unidentified intruders on Monday night and the shop assistant, Mr Giani Singh, who was sleeping there, killed.

The Sikh fanatics have also moved against the sale and transporting of meat. Trade in meat in the Amritsar district is now reported to be virtually paralysed.

Since the gurus also enjoined the Sikh faithful not to have their hair or beards cut,

the terrorists have also been attacking barbers.

Posters have been terrifying the simple inhabitants of country villages by warning against the use of meat, cigarettes and alcohol. In Mullapur village, for example, in Ropar district, they also admonish those who demand and accept dowry payments or

Five Sikhs went on trial in New Orleans yesterday accused of planning to kill an Indian state government leader who was in the city in 1985 for eye surgery (Reuters reports).

The men have been in jail since they were arrested in May 1985 on charges of conspiring to kill Mr Bhajan Lal, the Chief Minister of Haryana state.

have their hair cut. "No marriage party will consist of more than 11 persons," the posters warn.

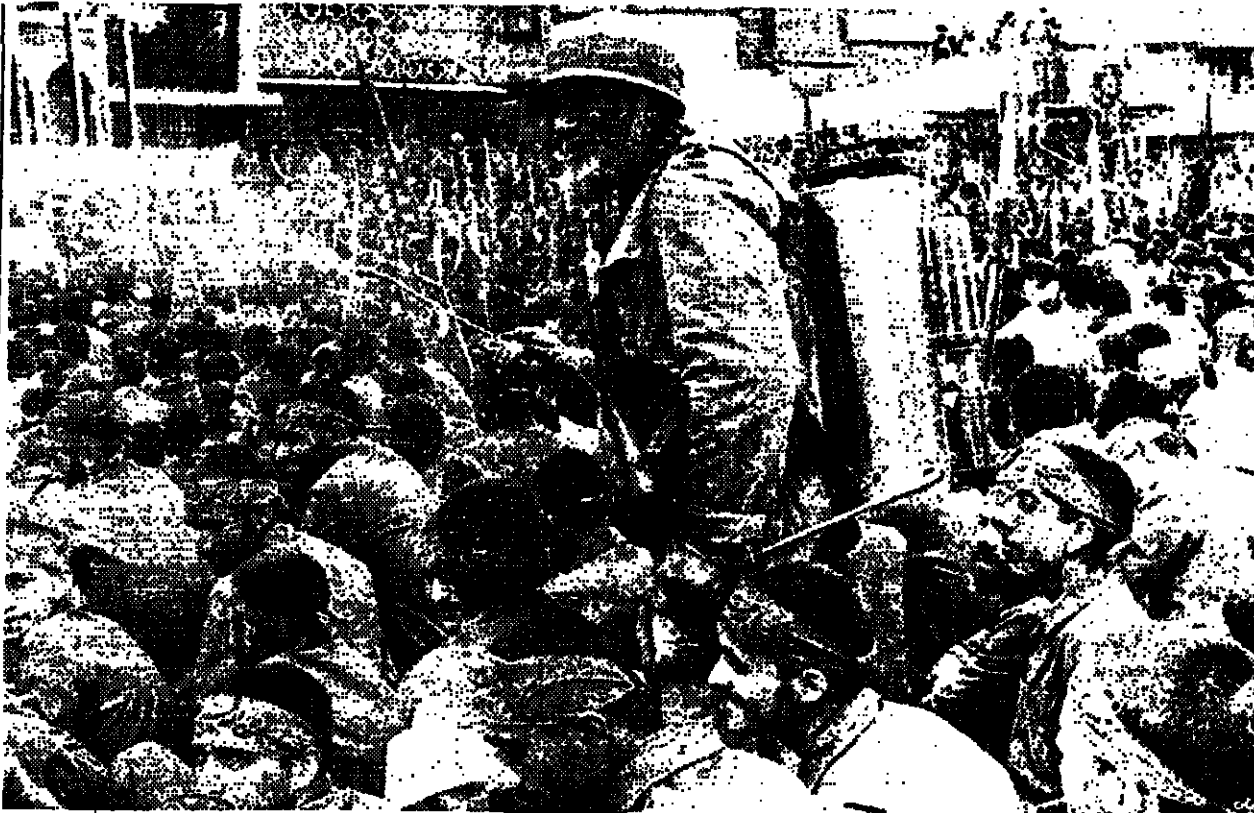
A handwritten line at the foot of each poster says: "If anyone tears the posters, he will be our first victim." A Hindu barber in the village has closed his shop and now faces starvation, but he dare not reopen. And an old man reported: "No one in the village cooks meat because of

fear. Its aroma goes to distant places."

Newspapers have said that a ban on smoking, drinking and meat-eating is admirable and has much in common with what is required of devout Hindu followers of the god Vishnu. But, as the *Hindustan Times* said yesterday: "In the name of a lesser virtue, such action seeks to condone the greatest crime of all — the taking of human life."

The new campaign has put Professor Darshan Singh Ragi, the head priest of the Akal Takht — the immortal throne of Sikh spiritual and temporal authority — on the spot by having to support the extremists' campaign. "I do not want my people to get cancer," he said feebly. Otherwise, he would have to discredit himself by appearing to condone activities offensive to the faith.

The militant campaign has also driven a wedge between the head priest and the new United Akali Dal, the Sikh party opposing the present state government. The UAD legislature leader, Captain Amarinder Singh, said clearly that he disapproved of the extremist campaign and that Sikhism did not permit reform through coercion.



An Iranian soldier spraying his comrades with water during celebrations in a Tehran square to mark Islamic Republic Day.

Iranians claim advance near Basra

Nicosia (AP) — Iran claimed yesterday it launched an overnight offensive near Basra in southern Iraq, capturing new positions and killing or wounding about 2,000 Iraqi troops.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (Irna) said an Iraqi fighter-bomber was shot down and dozens of Iraqi tanks destroyed when Iranian forces pushed through 12 miles of defences, including barbed wire, minefields, concrete barriers and water canals. There was no immediate comment from Iraq on the Iranian claims. Tehran radio, monitored in London,

said Iranian forces had advanced overnight toward an area called Twin Canals, near Fish Lake, an artificial body of water created by Iraq to block an Iranian advance from the border toward Basra, Iraq's second largest city. Eighty per cent of three Iraqi battalions were wiped out.

Iran launched a big offensive east of Basra on January 9, but it ground to a halt after both sides suffered heavy casualties. Yesterday's reported onslaught was the heaviest ground engagement between the warring countries in a month. It coincided with ceremonies in Iraq marking the 40th

anniversary of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party.

Irna, monitored here, said the new attack was in retaliation for Iraqi air strikes against Iranian economic targets and disruption of shipping in the Gulf in recent days. Iraq announced on Monday that its Air Force had carried out six separate air raids on vital Iranian oil installations.

Reports by the two sides, at war since September 1980, cannot be independently verified. Foreign journalists and observers are rarely allowed to the battlefronts.

Yugoslav firms are going broke

Belgrade (Reuters) — More than 2,000 Yugoslav firms with almost 600,000 workers are heading for bankruptcy, says Mr Dusan Kokoljovic, a leading trade unionist.

He says 2,306 companies made a loss in 1986 and 200 faced immediate danger of liquidation.

Egli crash

Zurich (Reuters) — The former Swiss President, Mr Alphons Egli, has been fined £100 for dangerous driving after ramming four parked cars.

Chagall sale

Paris (AP) — Two paintings by Marc Chagall sold for nearly £375,000 each, at the start of a week of auctions of modern paintings at Drouot.

Knee deep

Stockholm (Reuters) — Thomas Ahlen, a Swedish professional ice hockey player, has claimed social security payments for injuries received at work, when he injured his knee in a tackle and was unable to train for a week.

Atten-shh!

Rome (Reuters) — Thousands of Italian servicemen staged a day of self-enforced silence over slow progress on a pay rise.

Population grows while economic troubles multiply

In his concluding article on Malawi, Michael Hornsby looks at the economic and demographic problems clouding the future of a country which has been regarded as an African success story.

Dr Hastings Banda, in his speech at the banquet held to honour Prince Charles at the Sanjika Palace in Blantyre at the end of last month, proudly pointed to what he regards as the most cogent justification of the virtual one-man rule he has exercised for the past 23 years.

Malawians, he said, might not be millionaires, but they could count on the three

essentials for ordinary men and women in the village: sufficient food, decent clothing and houses that do not leak when it rains.

After independence in 1964, Dr Banda spurned the post-colonial nostrums fashionable elsewhere in Africa — such as immediate and rapid Africanization of the Civil Service, free education and health services for the masses. Instead, he emphasized rural development and government support for the rural smallholder.

The result is that 90 per cent of the 7,154,000 population are still peasant farmers. Only 5 per cent of Malawians of eligible age go to secondary school and no more than 0.01 per cent to university. There is only one doctor per 52,000 people.

But Malawians have consistently been able to feed themselves and produce a surplus to sell, a rarity in Africa, and towns are not disgraced by the squalid shanty settlements that the exodus from the countryside has spawned elsewhere.

In the 1970s, Malawi's real economic growth rate averaged about 5.2 per cent, but has declined steadily in recent years to 2.8 per cent in 1985 and 2.6 last year, falling behind an alarmingly high population growth rate of 3.2 per cent. Gross national product per capita is less than £113, one of the dozen or so lowest in the world.

On present trends the population will increase by some 60 per cent over the next 15 years and could double or triple in three decades, putting huge pressure on land. For a predominantly agricultural country, Malawi already has one of the highest population densities in Africa.

An equally disturbing statistic is that 275 of every 1,000 babies born in Malawi die before the age of five. According to the United Nations Children's Fund, only three other countries in the world have a worse mortality rate for those aged under five.

Until this figure is reduced, Malawian women are unlikely to be much impressed by

arguments in favour of birth control, a concept which the puritanical Dr Banda finds distasteful and the Government is still only promoting half-heartedly.

The first effect of a reduction in the child death rate would be a further boost in population growth. It would take far longer before improved child survival began to slow down the birth rate and exert a counter-effect.

Malawi has no mineral resources to speak of, and the vast bulk of its export earnings depend on three cash crops: tobacco, tea and sugar. It has run into big problems caused by depressed world prices and the disruption of its natural trade routes through Mozambique.

Before 1981, more than 90 per cent of Malawi's exports and imports were moved by direct rail links to and from the Mozambican ports of Nacala and Beira. The activities of Renamo insurgents in Mozambique closed the Beira line in 1983 and the route to Nacala in 1984.

Even if the insurgency were to end tomorrow, it would still take some time and large sums of money to restore the two lines to their previous level of operation because of deteriorating tracks.

Paying foreign handlers to transport goods via Zambia, Zimbabwe and the Tete province of Mozambique to the South African port of Durban has imposed a huge extra cost on the economy, estimated to amount to somewhere between 20 per cent and 40 per cent of export earnings.

An alternative outlet via the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam can at present handle only 10 to 15 per cent of Malawi's trade. Mr John Tembo, Dr Banda's special envoy, returned last weekend from a visit to Tanzania at which increased use by Malawi of this so-called "northern corridor" was discussed.

The routes through Mozambique and Tanzania would be Malawi's only lifeline if economic sanctions against South Africa and counter-action by Pretoria were to lead to a general closure of South Africa's borders with its black-ruled neighbours.

The balance of payments has moved sharply into the red, and there is a critical shortage of foreign exchange, with overseas suppliers having to wait up to six months for payment for their goods. Devaluations of the Malawian kwacha — by 10 per cent last August and a further 20 per cent earlier this year — have fuelled inflation, now running at 22 per cent, without stimulating exports.

All this helps to explain why Dr Banda seems to be rethinking his previous policy of neutrality towards, and possibly covert support of, the Renamo insurgents — a policy which, on the face of it, was never in his country's best economic interests.

Concluded

Death for Bangladesh bombers

Dhaka — The Bangladesh Government has decided to enact laws giving the death penalty for possession and use of bombs in acts of violence (Ahmed Fazl writes).

President Ershad would capital punishment would curb the rise in bomb incidents during political vi-

olence. Over 40 people were killed and 300 injured in 1986.

The law follows the death of an opposition student leader and two others who were killed in a bomb explosion in a Dhaka University dormitory last March. Hand bombs and crackers have become popular in anti-government protests.

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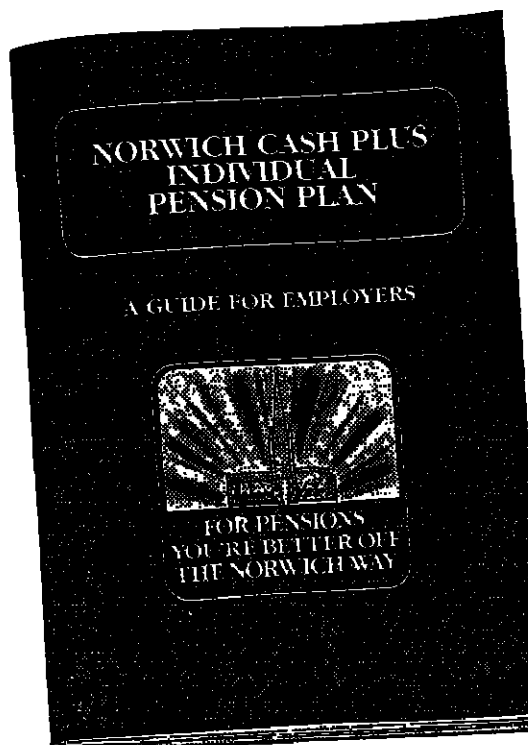
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SPECTRUM

This needless agony

With the Herald of Free Enterprise upright again, Sonda Lawrence tells a moving and disturbing story of four days of heartache, misinformation and bungling as relatives searched in vain for news of their missing loved ones

Fifteen hours after the Herald of Free Enterprise overturned, I learned that the daughter of close friends, who was also next door neighbour, was on the ferry. She was in her mid-twenties and travelling with her husband. At home were her younger brother and sister. Their mother was in Australia and their father had left for Australia at almost exactly the time the ferry went down. There were no close relatives here, the family being Australian.

By the time I heard the news the youngest daughter, aged 20, was on her way to Dover. When she arrived she discovered that the summons was premature; after hours of anguish she returned exhausted, distressed and no further ahead in finding out if her sister and brother-in-law were alive.

At this stage neither child wanted to inform the mother: their father was en route to Australia and necessary contacts had to be made with authorities, many of which I undertook. On Saturday I spoke with endless people on the Kent police emergency line. At first I found that even explaining that the parents of the missing girl were not in the country did not give me access to information, so with the children's permission I acted in loco parentis, making all further calls in their mother's name.

I was greeted with a total lack of sympathy by those answering the telephones; some were curt, indicating that such calls were a bother; one should simply sit and wait. One person took a full description of the missing young people and assured us that we would be telephoned in a few hours. This did not occur. We were told that there was "total chaos" in Belgium and that any delay in reports was due entirely to the Belgians. I asked to speak to a senior officer in charge of the relative liaison section. After considerable difficulty I was put through. I was told at 11pm on the Saturday that all survivors had been accounted for and that our two young people were not among them. The children and I felt the flow of grief shared by everyone who lost a relative.

Additionally, we had to inform their parents. Almost immediately the telephone rang: their father had reached Australia and, knowing that the couple were on the day trip, had rung to hear if they were safe. His son had to tell him that they were not. The parents set out immediately for London.

Television and radio reports indicated that survivors were still being found; why, I asked the police, had we been told that there was no possibility that our two young people were alive? On Sunday morning the officer in charge at Kent police told me that "all previous information which had been given was inaccurate", that "all details fed into the computer had been erased by mistake", but that "the identification slips which had been given in from information filed by telephone were intact".

I was further informed that the Kent police considered the Brussels police and the Townsend Thoresen authorities to be at the heart of the problems and that for this reason two senior officers had gone to check everything from the beginning. We were back to square one.

We had already been told that two people were dead; we had mourned; we had told their parents that they were dead. Now we were told that all previous information was null and void - we could hope again. Arrangements were being made for relatives to travel to Zeebrugge to identify the bodies of those who had not survived and to visit the four hospitals where victims of the disaster were being cared for.

The police told me that I was the first to be given "an important number in Brussels which would supply details of the travel plans. When I telephoned the number given to me, it turned out to be the ordinary office number of Townsend Thoresen in Brussels; a sleepy voice answered and when I asked about the new arrangements he said that he knew nothing definitive, but that he thought that if we "turned up at Eastern Docks in Dover, no doubt some boat would come to take (us) over".

At this point I became extremely indignant. This had become my family; I have four children of my own and in the concern and love I felt for them in their distress I had begun to assume another identity. Since the "important number" proved to be yet another red herring, I went back to ringing Kent police. They had no explanation for the instructions to ring Brussels and seemed totally insensitive to the obvious distress caused to us by the suggestion that we stand at the docks waiting for a Townsend Thoresen ferry to transport us. It was now Sunday. There were questions to be asked of



So near, so far: the police told relatives not to go, yet the Belgians welcomed them warmly

'There was a total lack of sympathy'

the police: was there an existing casualty list? I was told that any lists had proved inaccurate. Families had been told that relatives had survived when, in fact, they were dead and vice-versa. Could they supply a list of people in hospital, and indicate how many of these were unidentified? They could do neither of these things. Could they tell us how many male and female bodies were on shore and unidentified? No.

The son of the family and I decided to travel to Zeebrugge to look for the two young people once the Kent police's "arrangements" proved to be non-existent.

I informed the police of our intentions and was told - categorically - that under no circumstances were we or any relatives to go to Zeebrugge. Everything was "in chaos" and with the descriptions we had provided we would be informed the moment anyone was identified. On Sunday afternoon I rang again to be given the information that five more Kent police officers had gone to Zeebrugge and that with British police in charge we would have precise information within a few hours. At 11pm on Sunday I was

given the news that "all bodies in the morgue had been identified". This was terrible news; it meant that the couple had not survived and that they were not in the morgue. The only possibility left to us was that their bodies were still on the ferry.

Early on Monday morning the parents of the family arrived at Heathrow. Shortly before they were expected home I rang for the latest news from Maidstone. The story had changed again. Now there were 34 identified bodies and 15 unidentified bodies. However, when I suggested that we go to Zeebrugge to assist with identification, not only was I told not to go, but that the local police would be visiting us to obtain further identification details. The police arrived almost immediately, asked 23 separate questions, and gave explicit instructions not to go to Belgium.

Our grief was now overflowing. We had to accept that the young couple were dead, but we did not know where their bodies were. We had relied on police reports for days and had got no concrete information. Yet we were being forbidden

to go to Belgium. All day we mourned and suffered the extra distress connected with uncertainty and the inability to act.

Finally, on Tuesday we decided to ignore the British police's instructions and to travel to the scene of the accident. Fortunately, one of the parents worked with a foreign embassy and it was with their assistance that transport and an interpreter were provided in Brussels.

On Wednesday morning the family flew to Belgium. When they arrived at Bruges, where both hospital patients and the dead were being cared for, contrary to every single conversation that the family and I had had with the police in England, they found order, kindness and organization of the highest level. The authorities in Bruges were not only in charge, but positively waiting for the English relatives to arrive.

The Belgian Red Cross gave comfort, help and love and the representative of Townsend Thoresen at the hospital there was extraordinarily helpful. One English woman who should have been on the fated ferry had remained in Bruges to help those who might need her. At St Jan Hospital the

staff cafeteria was given to the family for privacy, phone calls to Australia were arranged, and so much warmth prevailed that language was not necessary.

Within a short time the family found their daughter, who had been rescued from the ferry, but had not survived. With some anger they discovered that she was wearing a watch which bore her full maiden name - the name I had given to the police about 16 hours after the ferry capsized. The parents were told that she had been taken out of the water on Friday night; there seems no excuse for the fact that she had not been identified.

Additionally, the family was told that the remaining people in the morgue were not British. How they could have been told anything different is inexplicable. They had been subjected to the psychological distress of having to discuss identification by dental records when any person checking personal effects would have found their daughter.

The whole experience in Bruges reinforced our feeling that the liaison which should have been effected between Belgian and British authorities had never coalesced. In relating the events of that day in Bruges the family made several points:

● The British Government should have chartered an aircraft to take relatives to Zeebrugge to assist with identifications, thus helping them both practically and psychologically.

● If the family had accepted strong British police advice, it would not have gone to Belgium and the daughter might have remained unidentified for some considerable time.

I do not believe that the Kent police, given the best of intentions, could have the experience, organization and psychological resources to tackle such a tragedy. What is needed is a permanent Relative Liaison Agency which would be able to go into action with the accumulated data and personnel necessary to put the relatives' interests first. This should need only a small nucleus of permanent staff.

There is a difference between having the technical experience to isolate criminals or handle riots and handling human problems with dispatch and compassion. This is a civilian job. We now recognize that victims of rape need a trained volunteer to intervene between the victim and the police in order to safeguard that person's rights and sensitivities. Surely it is the same for relatives of victims in a tragedy like Zeebrugge.

Sooner or later another tragedy will occur. Let us make certain that we are better prepared.

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Paying a debt to societies

Today sees the national launch of a telephone advice service for people with home finance problems



people like this out of trouble. We offer advice on the kind of action people can take to minimize their hardship.

The offices are situated in an unprepossessing part of Birmingham, a symbolically short walk away from the towering centre and its rich roads, like Temple Street, jam-packed with its many building societies. As Ann Andrews says, there is a very thin dividing line between debt and credit.

Now that this small team has gone national, one of its aims, which is not as paradoxical as it sounds, is to see its eventual demise, once beleaguered borrowers have become wise to their rights in a credit-ridden society. The team, therefore, will probably be around for a long time.

The two co-workers are Simon Johnson, aged 28, and Jeff Brown, 26. Both have worked in Citizens Advice Bureaux, the first in Bradford, the second in Wolverhampton and both have spent time on social security. Brown has also been employed by the Housing Department in Nottingham, so there is a fair degree of experience on the two sides of the social curtain.

The Credit Society is certainly a background factor in debt," says Johnson. "When

Charlotte Wynn



Ann Andrews with Simon Johnson (centre) and Jeff Brown

the Department of the Environment and designed to help those tenants (one million of them) and owner-occupiers (300,000) who are behind with their payments.

Whatever the reason, Debline believes that the problem has been coped with inadequately by existing agencies and that many of those who suddenly see their commitments drastically outstripping their resources are not necessarily to blame.

Ann Andrews comes in fuming as the ping of her telephone fades. At 37, and a specialist in debt, she comes across as a sort of de-commercialized Esther Rantzen, complete with her two younger male assistants.

"Two pensioners, right? He's got diabetes and bronchitis, so he's had to take early retirement. They got into arrears with the building society. Their bank said they'd take over the mortgage at 13 per cent, which turned out to be 15 per cent. Then they borrowed £2,000 from a finance company, which charged £500 for arranging the loan - I ask you - plus 40 per cent APR [Annual Percentage Rate]. In the end that loan will cost them £5,250."

"What are we here for, you ask. Well, obviously we can't just hand out money to get

you look at it closely, you realize that 95 per cent of people in this country have a debt of some kind. For example, you use a gas meter, so that means that you run up a debt to the Gas Board. You have a mortgage, so that means you're in debt to the building society."

"We get goods thrown at us," says Brown. "It means that the average family setting up home thinks that the easiest, perhaps the only way to get these goods is by means of credit. But whenever we borrow, we are gambling on our future income. In the UK we pay a higher rate for borrowing than, I think, any country apart from Brazil. "Today there is less stigma attached to debt than there used to be. But some people are still frightened and ashamed to talk about it. Here it is all done by telephone. It is emotionally easier to pick up the phone than to enter into a face-to-face session."

The lines ring again and Ann Andrews hurries off. The conversation has gone into the red, and debt, as it always will be, is back in business.

Alan Franks
Housing Debline is based at the Birmingham Settlement, 318 Summer Lane, Birmingham (B21 3SR) 8501/2/3/4.

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Too soon to forget

The President of Israel's visit to West Germany brings old issues to the surface

The writer Peter Sichrovsky is an Austrian who has lived in Germany. He is also Jewish. Forty-two years after the Holocaust, memories of Jewish persecution have faded a little, and a generation has grown up to which Belsen and Auschwitz are history.

Nonetheless, Sichrovsky believes the twin problems of German guilt and Jewish identity lie only just below the surface. As if to prove his point, this week's unprecedented visit to West Germany by Chaim Herzog, the President of Israel, has reopened old wounds as Germans and Jews take another step down the slow and painful road towards their reconciliation.

In his new book, *Born Gaily*, which is due out in Britain in September but has already been published in West Germany to a storm of controversy, Sichrovsky tackles the question that obsesses him and which made him give up a promising career in pharmaceuticals to become an author: how can the younger generation of Germans (and Austrians) and Jews escape the shadow of the past and live together?

At 39, Sichrovsky is himself "blessed with being born late", in Chancellor Kohl's oft-repeated phrase. But in interviewing hundreds of people in Germany and Austria for his first book, *Strangers In Their Own Land* (published last year), Sichrovsky discovered that even now scarcely any German Jews feel able to say directly: "I am German and Jewish." Instead they say: "I am Jewish and I live in Germany" - "Almost as if they were passing through," as Sichrovsky puts it.

In his first book Sichrovsky gave searing examples of the lingering malaise left by the Nazi period, with emotional and psychological problems surfacing in marriages be-

tween Jews and non-Jews. Behind such problems lies the banal yet terrifying question: "What did your father do in the War?"

Behind Jewish people, Sichrovsky found, stand the spectres of the death-camps, and behind their often-blond(e) Arian sponges the spectre of the SS. One Jewish woman journalist said Gentile men wanted to go to bed with her because it was stimulating to have sex with a Jewess, "as if it were something forbidden."

Germans are also caught in a political trap: the Left sympathizes with them over Israel and Lebanon; the Right sympathizes with them over Israeli-Arab relations, but feels guilty about resurgent German nationalism. There are still only 30,000 Jews in Germany - there were 500,000 before the War - and half of them are now more than 60 years of age. Only a handful of Jews are prominent in West German public life. As for non-Jews, in *Born Gaily* Sichrovsky discloses that younger Germans he talked to fall broadly into three categories: those who defend what their parents did in the Third Reich; those who do not care; and those who are so disgusted with their parents that they have broken with them for ever.

His conclusion is that young Germans are confused by living with "two realities" inside them - the Nazi past and the democratic present. Many have written to him to ask how they can find out more than 40 years on, whether their fathers

were "SS murderers". At the other end of the spectrum is the 19-year-old grand-daughter of a convicted Nazi war criminal who told Sichrovsky, with undisguised passion, that the Nazis had been losers and she wanted nothing to do with them. "I want to live among winners for a change," she said, an impulse which many detect behind the growing call by German conservatives for Germans finally to put the past behind them and take pride in a new nationalism.

President Herzog's remark at Belsen to the effect that Jews were not yet able either to forgive or to forget shows that the matter is not quite that simple.

Richard Owen
Strangers In Their Own Land by Peter Sichrovsky (11.8. Tauris, £10.95).

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1227

ACROSS
1 Lord Chancellor's seat (8)
5 Small degree (4)
9 Ruderless socket (7)
10 Frequently (5)
11 Swain (5)
12 Amiens dept (5)
13 Fluctuate (5)
15 Newspaper numbers game (5)
16 Pointer (5)
18 Pamphlet (5)
20 Muslim dressing (5)
21 Stimulus (7)
23 Always (4)
24 Crimean war battle-field (8)
DOWN
1 Bets (6)
2 1898 Sudan battle-field (8)
3 Observe (3)
4 Star group (13)
6 Paper money (14)
7 Aircraft shed (6)
8 Rather (8)
9 Observed (8)
11 Infatuated (8)
14 Word for word (8)
15 Yacht flag (6)
17 Deteriorate (6)
18 Sand ridge (4)
22 Pastry topped dish (3)

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ACROSS: 1 Morse 5 Grapple 8 Ale 9 Thwart 10 Natter
11 Deal 12 Reprisal 14 Maxwell Davies 17 Sanguine 19 Date
21 Sista 23 Around 24 Tor 25 Reverse 26 Denist
DOWN: 2 Octre 3 Scallywag 4 Latrod 5 Gen up
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Models of innocence?

When — as happened recently — a child of 14 is photographed stripping in a night-club, there is a minor uproar. When another girl finds a career on a romance with a Rolling Stone, most of us — particularly mothers — see the with impotent rage.

Even worse than precocious 14-year-olds is the idea that small, pre-pubescent children also can be seen as objects of sexual desire. But we have to take that idea on board now; for both Childline and the NSPCC have lately been at pains to spell out to us the unwelcome fact that sexual abuse of children is nowhere near as rare as we had believed.

This growing unease is changing the way that we allow ourselves to look at children. So it could be that over the next few years, a hitherto carefree section of the marketplace is going to be put under the microscope and asked to justify itself. This is advertising: where the use of children has grown space in the last 15 years or so. A flick through recent magazines finds them smiling and laughing in endorsement not only of children's wear, nappies, and foods — but carpets, a dishwasher, tyres, even insurance.

The Advertising Standards Authority prevents children being shown in dangerous or unattended circumstances, or unfairly exploited or influenced, but the code of practice does not mention sexuality, so far, it has had only two letters in four years along those lines. But there are sufficient dark undertones to have set a small time-bomb of protest ticking in some quarters.

Michele Elliott is a moderate liberal figure: a child psychologist, author of anti-abuse books for children like the excellent *Willow Street Kids*, and chairman of the Home Office working group on child abuse prevention publicity.

Amid increasing concern over child exploitation,

Libby Purves looks at the implications for advertising, an industry in which decency can be difficult to define

Professionally, she has long known the uncomfortable fact that paedophiles feed their imaginations off the most innocuous-looking mainstream products. "I've had child molesters actually say to me that they don't need porn — they need look no further than the catalogues advertising children's clothes. Especially underwear."

Eighteen months ago she began looking into the subject more closely. "We started collecting what we considered to be unacceptable uses of children in advertising. I started bringing it up in talks, the whole business of our images of children, and I got some very strong reactions. Even stronger than my own had been."

She points out some classics: the late television series *Minipops* in particular. "Minipops! Those children were provocative. It was appalling," said Elliott. That view was pretty general, and *Minipops* quietly vanished. Among other examples she cites a particular record cover, with a child "aged about eight, to judge by the teeth, with made-up lips and eyes, and a

come-hither look. On the back songs are listed like 'Plaything' and 'Can I Please Have Some More'. If you're a paedophile and you pick this up, you'd say, 'Children are sexy and seductive and it's not my fault'."

She is careful not to overstate her case, but finds problems even in reputable mainstream material: "A very angry paediatrician sent me the Mothercare catalogue a couple of years ago, pointing out children in lipstick and pouty poses, wearing sunglasses and lounging against a nickelodeon." Indeed, she admits to a radical doubt about children being used in advertising at all. "Especially in underwear. Why do we do it? It's not like a dress where you need to see how it hangs and looks, is it?"

Childline has made vigilantes of us all, and perhaps rightly. But caution rules, even for campaigners like Michele Elliott. *Honi soit qui mal y pense*: one feels both daft and dirty-minded at these, leading through babywear catalogues in search of sexual innuendo. Once the seed of doubt is planted, it is easy to see undesirable examples of childish sex, knowing little pouts and other uncomfortable visions of children wherever you look. I took the issues to some of the professionals in the field: agencies, little models' mothers, marketing men. They are the ones who put the images up there.

First, Mothercare. Tony Maynard, the marketing director, says the rule is "very straight presentation, just merchandise looking as attractive as possible". He has seen the nickelodeon spread, though it was before his time, and defends it briefly. "We had a range called Rock On, and it was done in that context." But with hindsight, he rules that it was "a little bit over the top. I don't like children with over-greased hair and make-up. If there really was evidence



From a catalogue for Woolworth



that our catalogue contributed in any way to a problem of that nature, we'd take action very quickly and seriously."

Maynard does defend the use of photographs of children in underwear, though, on technical grounds. "It's just so difficult to show it otherwise. No light and shade and shape. But we do always have parents or guardians at sessions."

But would any of those parents at the sessions really raise objections? Child modelling is a buyer's market: keen mothers with pretty tots battle on the doors of the agencies. Anne Ingram — whose daughter recently gave up modelling before her first birthday — was rapidly disillusioned with the business. "The agency was incredibly tough. You do what they say or you're out. They always made me ring them back — their phone bill must be infinitesimal, which is a bit much, considering they're on 25 per cent and you don't earn very much anyway. It's made quite clear that there are more where you came from."

Her own baby was pretty enough to get work, but after a while, she says, "I didn't like the way my baby got totally precocious. She started to pose in the high-chair. And there was one session when she had to be naked in a bed with a couple who were supposed to be her parents, and she didn't like that at all."

To be fair, some mothers have happier views of modelling. Susan Crispin, of Islington, is experienced: her six-year-old, Mia, has been doing it for three years, her elder daughter is at stage school and Susan herself is a licensed inner London Education Authority chaperone. She never allows Mia to be made up — "except a bit of hair gel" — and her only undergarment work has been a "hair-washing shot", bare-chested, for the new Mothercare catalogue.

"I wouldn't push her if she was shy. I have to say that some of the mums are a bit much. They live out their own fantasies, carry portfolios around. I don't think it's for the money, it's for the prestige." As far as the appeal of glossy child flesh to the paedophile, "I hadn't thought about it,

ever, before you said. But really, there's nothing rude in the good catalogues." She was clearly rather shocked at the idea.

Wendy Lee wasn't. She is director of the Childplay agency, a forceful, friendly, motherly Cockney. "Oh yes, there are some real weirdos out there, no doubt about it. We keep a tight eye on clients. We don't allow any children of ours to be made up, except a little blusher for television."

When mothers send her pictures of children wearing make-up, she rings up "to say they'll be no use to us with that stuff on."

She has supplied children for underwear shots, but suggests that if there is really concern about

perversion, "perhaps they would be better using dummies". Not a bad concession, from a model agent.

Michele Elliott admits that it is difficult to draw any legal lines. "I just want our Home Office committee to ask whether the images of children we portray in advertising are, in the long term, helpful. Let's say you are showing a blouse on a child. Do you unbutton it to the navel, as one catalogue picture did? It doesn't show the garment to greater advantage, so what is the point of showing more flesh of the child? People will say it's cute. I think it needs watching."

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What O levels are you doing this year? I seem to be doing Julius Caesar and human biology. I am rather more fortunate than one of my friends, who seems to be doing geography and physics.

This is the time of year when the young bring home fact sheets of quite bravura tedium, and beg you to hear them on the functions of the sweat gland while you are making cauliflower cheese.

Gallup surveyed 600 parents recently, to reveal that the majority would like to help more with homework but feel they lack the knowledge. Yet thousands of women are not watching *EastEnders* with a cup of coffee, we are saying, "All right, tell me about the main causes for the rise of Nazism in the 1930s". We are also hearing Latin vocab, a pastime which puts tidying up the linen cupboard in an exciting new light.

We have to put up with the constant cry of "What's it all for, anyway?" On good days, we are able to reply in the bracing manner: "All knowledge is a tool."

On days when someone hasn't mended the dishwasher and we've got friends coming to supper, we are apt to snarl: "Oh, just get on with it."

Because what is it all for? Take mathematics. Only mathematicians really need it: the rest of us are adequately equipped if we can add, subtract, multiply and divide. If I was queuing up to be buckled into the Iron Maiden of Nuremberg, I couldn't tell you what logarithms are for. Or what they are, yet I spent months of my young life gazing dolefully at them.

Learn to forget

Parents are deep in the annual ritual of dredging for useless facts



I have brought with me into adult life only two facts called from Doing Geography. One is how an ox-bow lake is formed; the other is "Boston: Boots and Shoes". This meant that Boston was the centre of the American footwear industry, and so what? If I said to a Bostonian knowledgeably: "Are you in uppers or welts?" would he raise his glass to me and say: "At last. An Englishwoman who has her fingertips on the pulse of our market

forces"? I think he'd assume I was questioning him discourteously on his drug preferences.

As for history, they told me a lot about different bits of it. When some child asked me the other day if Henry VIII had heard the music of Bach, I had to peel a couple of potatoes before I was able to say authoritatively: "Not a chance." Did Lincoln read Jane Austen? Had Nelson heard about Rembrandt? I know it all happened, I just never came to grips with what order it happened in.

I grant them one thing: they are teaching Eng Lit better and I am rather enjoying Julius Caesar. When I did him we had to parse Friends, Romans, Countrymen. Now they are into motives and political stances, and you've got to hand it to that Mark Antony; he knew where he was at.

You only have to watch a baby, a puppy, an sandworm for all I know, at play; what they have in common is a constant urge to learn, because if you don't learn, you don't survive. Round about the age of seven, though, far too many human young come to regard one of the most exciting and instinctive things you can do as a dead bore. Children now go even more unwillingly to school than they did in Shakespeare's day; indeed, vast numbers of them don't bother to go at all.

Could it possibly be because at the back of their shrewd little minds they suspect that a lot of what they're taught will be about as useful to them as the ability to knit would be to an aardvark?

Angela Ince

TOMORROW

Dyes in food: is your child's diet colour-conscious?



Announce their new Summer programme of courses commencing in May. The courses are designed to suit everyone from those wishing to cook professionally to the cook/hobbyists who want to cook well for family and friends. Courses available include the Gordon Bleu 12-week Certificate, recognised worldwide as a top qualification for a career in cookery, and a range of short and part-time practical classes on advanced and introductory levels. Classes are kept small to ensure individual attention. For further details please contact: The Gordon Bleu Cookery School, 17, Weymouth Road, London W11. Telephone: 01-252 5553.

Victoriana unveiled

A return to Victorian values? No thanks, says Alice Thomas Ellis after reading a new book on the subject

I have never yearned for a return to Victorian Values or Victorian anything else come to that. My impression of the era is one of discomfort, a great deal of death and acute, intolerable boredom. Nevertheless it has its own fascination and I shall be watching all six parts of Granada's new documentary on the subject, thanking Providence the while that we have telly and I do not have to rely for entertainment on evening sing-songs round the piano.

In saying this I am making the usual assumption that if I had been born in an earlier age I should have sprung from the more fortunate classes. Although I would hate to be confined in a corset and petticoats I should prefer to be so attired in a middle-class home rather than live with three other families in a single unheated room in a slum tenement.

I have been reading the book by James Walvin, also entitled *Victorian Values*, which is to accompany the series, and I am soaked in vicarious gloom. All my Victorian books — on cookery, etiquette, self-improvement, medicine, etc — have this effect on me, but few of them go into the details of the frightful smells or lack of clean water and the general ghastliness of life experienced by most of the population.

Many Victorians were content to imagine that poverty was the result of drunkenness, debauchery and general godlessness, whereas God had turned away his face and his favours from the sinners.

Sinners were certainly frowned upon in Victorian society. Death, being so prevalent, was freely discussed but sex was not — which is not to say it wasn't prevalent too. Prostitutes abounded. Incest was rife in the cramped homes of the poor, and even the children of the middle and upper classes had to be conceived before they died of measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, cholera or TB and were buried beneath marble statues of weeping angels.

Queen Victoria herself was very fond of male company. Certainly she was enchanted when her beloved Albert (before he died of typhoid) helped her on with her stockings and had no inhibitions about saying so in writing and while it took her years to get over his death I am inclined to believe that she found consolation with John Brown. He used to shout at her for wearing the same boring old black frock and carry her across streams. Not the usual image of the

Widow of Windsor. When he died she kept many photographs and paintings of him and when she died her children got rid of them all. Hum.

Walvin makes the point that the Victorians were not unaccustomed to the sight of nudity. There were painters such as Etty and Alma Tadema portraying naked girls all over the place. Still, many a gentle-bred girl had no idea what to expect on her wedding night, but 10 babies later she would be left in little doubt; unless of course, she was carried off prematurely by puerperal fever, or driven mad by the insanity of her social life — paying calls in the main.

No, I have no desire to return to Victorian times. Hard work? Certainly the poor



Prude made: William Etty's "At the Doubtful Breeze Alarmed" worked hard. The poor devils had to; and until late in the century so did their little children. Thrift? The working classes didn't have much choice, and the thrift of the upper classes consisted in forbidding the servants to eat what was left of the meals of family. Godliness? This frequently took the form of reminding the poor of their station, and threatening them with hell-fire if they stepped out of line. Cleanliness? Impossible for most of the population until late in the century when pure water became, at last, more widely available. Patriotism? This was inculcated in the newly instituted schools and led to the horrors of 1914-1918.

We have our problems now with nuclear leaks and holes in the ozone layer, inner city poverty and crime and lax morality, but nothing would persuade me to swap with our ancestors.

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Victorian Values by James Walvin is published by Andre Deutsch tomorrow (£3.95). The series begins on ITV next Wednesday at 7pm.

● A follow-up to last week's article highlighting the life-saving role of child safety seats in cars ("Rearguard action for clunk-click", April 1)... Mothers should badge their ante-natal clinics to initiate a "loan scheme" for backward-facing seats, ideal for protecting infants from the time of their first ride home. The seats can be returned when a baby is able to progress to a normal child safety seat — usually about the age of nine months. About 30 such projects exist around the country (check with your hospital or local council road safety officer to see if there's one near you) but the Child Accident Prevention Trust would like to see hundreds more. So it has produced a leaflet, explaining how to set up a scheme, to pass on to your midwife, local branch of the WRVS or National Childbirth Trust. Available from CAPT, 75 Portland Place, London W1N 3AL (Tel: 01-636 2545).

BRIEFLY

A round-up of news, views and information

Quote me



"I think G-Plan is going to be the art nouveau furniture of the year 2000." Angela Rippon.

Cruel beauty

Cosmetics which aren't tested on animals have made a quantum leap from the boring colours and packaging of old. If you call the British

Union for the Abolition of Vivisection's hotline (01-700 4232), they'll send you a list of companies which create beauty without animal testing. It's part of the "Choose Cruelty-Free" drive backed by animal-lovers like Virginia McKenna, Hayley Mills and Joanna Lumley. Who, let's face it, aren't a bad advertisement...

Useful move

Far from longing for the freedom of retirement, many executives are frustrated and long to feel "useful" again. The Retired Executives Action Clearing House gives high-flyers the opportunity to apply their skill and experience in voluntary work for charities, museums and arts trusts — a worthwhile "second chance". Contact Reach at 89 Southwark Street, London SE1 0HD (Tel: 01-928 0452).

Josephine Fairley

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THE TIMES DIARY

Heinrich rooted out

Roald Dahl yesterday shared with me his own tale of the unexpected. A wonderfully wealthy widow had written to him from her Schloss in Germany promising him her entire fortune on her death. "I would hope that with this help you will be able to attend to your literary work more," she explained. After an initial flush of excitement, further inquiries by Dahl revealed that the same "Frau von Gasterm" had made similar offers to many famous Germans, including the foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher. The Germanic Henry booted for so it proved, turned out we to be a 42-year-old schoolmaster, tra Winfried Bornemann, who at printed the 50-best replies in a big-brother book. An unrepentant mc Bornemann yesterday offered me the first look at the English letters lia provided I laid off the story for a week. But my loyalties are to the we author of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*—the moral of which is greed comes before a fall. "We have to warn all unsuspecting 20 victims of this man's plan to Wtembarrass them," Dahl told me.

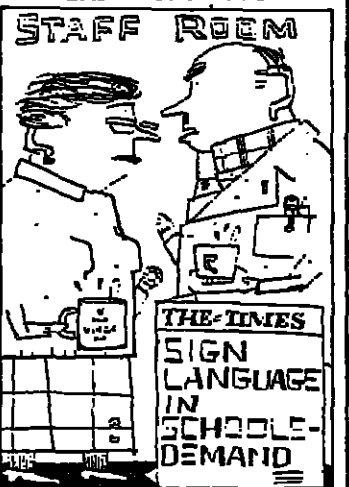
Anticipation

While David Owen is back-peddalling on his May 7 general election prediction, in private he is siskaking no chances. He has taken all the precaution of booking into the Holiday Inn in his Plymouth constituency for May 7 and two the Thursdays in June. His office tells me it will not be cancelling the tac first booking. Meanwhile, Tory aut Central Office workers are giggling what Owen's presumption that be-spouse it has hired a boxful of the mobile phones there will be a ling-general election next month. "My exidear," one told me yesterday, "we the-were supplied with 30 phones last com-May—just for the local elections," to ch-

Party games

Let no one say this is not a tha reforming government. The Tory-onecontrolled services committee in waithe Commons has just agreed to dessweep away a century-old tra-yodition: the room which has been thaexclusively reserved for the play-ing of chess since the 19th century oecwill soon be open to MPs wishing wato play anything from Snap to anSnakes and Ladders. After much waidebate about whether to allow gaiboard but not card games, or vice seversa, it has now been decided to reitallow both for an experimental corperid until Christmas. MPs are putalredy speculating over what 11 their fellow members will choose all to play. Mrs Thatcher, fresh from cotMoscow. Diplomacy perhaps: youKeith Best. Scruples: Ted Heath. theSolitaire?

BARRY FANTONI



"Judging by today's Lower Fifth behaviour, most of them already have an elementary grasp."

Non-persons

The infighting between Labour politicians in Birmingham continues to make life with the Borgias look like a picnic. The latest twist follows a message from the city's Labour MPs, who include Roy Hattersley and Robin Corbett, warning Bernie Grant and Linda Bellos, the black leaders of Haringey and Lambeth councils, not to become involved in the growing local party crisis over race policy. In a letter to the pair—who were due to address a public meeting in the city last night—they wrote: "As Labour MPs in Birmingham fully committed to racial equality and ending discrimination, we want to make it clear that neither the Birmingham District Labour Party nor the city council needs any advice from you or the Haringey and Lambeth councils." Quite how Hattersley and Co feel they can speak for the district party bothers me. After a furious row between it and Labour councillors, Labour's national, executive suspended it a week ago.

● The latest edition of the *Scilly Isles* magazine, *The Scillonian*, records the death of Alan Nance, a respected pioneer of spiritual healing. He died in hospital at St Austell, Cornwall, aged 88—after falling over a heating stool.

Whisper it not

Is nothing sacred? Sotheby's, of fine art and stately home fame, has taken to flopping car parts. In Birmingham this Saturday it will auction not only a Rolls Royce radiator, which admittedly could grace a yuppie fireplace, but a Phantom I gearbox, lever and handbrake (estimated price, £450). And who's going to buy those except as spare parts?

PHS

Giving blacks a real voice

by Zerbanoo Gifford

In 1892 the Liberal Dadabhai Naoroji was elected to the House of Commons as the first Asian MP. He was accorded the title of the Member for Finsbury and India and nicknamed Mr Narrow Majorities, having won by only three votes. His struggle to reach the Commons was not dissimilar to the difficulties faced by non-white politicians today.

Bitterly opposed by the old guard in his own constituency, he was subjected to personal abuse during the campaign and called by the Tory prime minister, Lord Salisbury, a "black man" (insulting to a fair-skinned parsee Zoroastrian before "black" became a fashionable political badge).

The right-wing press dubbed him "a fire worshipping Asiatic", but in this acrimonious atmosphere Dadabhai's victory signalled that the British people were willing to elect a non-white MP if he was a man of charisma and courage.

Naoroji was followed into the House by two other Zoroastrian lawyers—Sir Mancherjee Bhownagare (Conservative, Bethnal Green) in 1895, and in the 1920s by Shapurji Saklatvala (first a Labour and then a Communist member). I was thinking of these three remarkable men when considering the demands and activities of black sections in today's Labour Party—which, I

believe, they would not have approved.

Yet blacks in the Labour Party do today face a dilemma which simply cannot be argued away, as the Labour leadership would like to. It is this: in a party ideologically committed to racial equality, progress in achieving real representation is not happening at the pace they would like. In recent times Labour has not had one Afro-Caribbean or Asian MP. Could there be a closer racism which, secreted away in party procedure, denies the blacks the voice to which they feel entitled?

The fact is that Labour is so constituted that entrenched groups are given block votes. The idea of the party structure sensitively adapting itself to the aspirations of blacks is not Labour's way. The black sections are therefore an attempt to create such a power block in a party which pays lip service to equality but respects only the fist of organized power. When the trade union vote has party conference buttoned up, the blacks can hardly be blamed for organizing their own caucuses in local party affairs.

Before considering the successes and failures of this "self-help experiment" it is as well to accept that the other parties have nothing to be complacent about. The Tory

party not only has no black candidates in winnable seats but there is no clamour from the membership to nominate them. The problem facing the Tories is different: how to harness voting support and financial contributions from an upwardly mobile immigrant group. Thus we have seen the rise of the Anglo-Asian Tory Association whose members contributed considerable sums to the Tory effort, and in return received ministerial visits at social functions. Recently, though, the association has been disbanded.

In the Alliance we know there is much to do—in overcoming barriers to recruitment, participation and selection of suitable minority candidates. In a singular act of leadership, David Steel appointed a commission (which I was asked to chair) to consider the promotion of ethnic minority involvement in the Liberal Party. One of its conclusions was that while black sections were a short-sighted short cut, any political party must make every effort to accommodate new ideas before minority candidates could be expected to get elected.

The misfortune of the Labour black sections is to become identified with the antics of the "loony left", thereby legitimizing the scorn which much of Fleet Street

is ready to heap upon them. And yet the Labour Party patronizes its blacks and takes their support for granted—how else could we have constituencies like Southall and Birmingham Sparkbrook with substantial ethnic minority populations but no black candidate with a real chance of selection.

I suspect that the lack of advancement of blacks in politics has two principal causes. First, few constituencies will experiment with an unorthodox candidate since the stakes are too high and safety is preferred. Second, the much publicized emergence of a few ethnic minority candidates in some inner city areas has alarmed the majority community. This reaction has disillusioned the black candidates and led them to concentrate on issues of perceived self-interest—so alienating the white majority further.

However, the representation of ethnic minorities remains a serious issue which will not be dispelled by lampooning its proponents into irrelevance. It is many years since someone with a black or brown face followed the path to Westminster pioneered by Dadabhai Naoroji. There will certainly be some after the next election—but whether sufficient to justify the belief that Britain is on the road to true racial democracy remains to be seen.

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John Clare traces the long path to a national schools curriculum

Getting at last to the core



Sir Keith Joseph drew attention to timetable "clutter" and made the first changes on which Baker has built

documents were really discussed only within the profession. They had no official status; few parents knew anything of them.

It was with Baker's appointment as Education Secretary last May, with a brief from the Prime Minister to do something about parents' despair over state schools, that the idea of a national curriculum and the will to impose it at last came together.

Much of Baker's education in the subject came from Eric Bolton, the inspector-general and senior chief inspector. He and some of his colleagues had spent time in West Germany, France and Holland learning how a national curriculum works and how appropriate attainment targets are devised for children of different ages and varying abilities. They returned considerably impressed by what they had seen.

In an interview recently, Bolton told me: "The first great advantage of having benchmarks and broadly set out aims is that you can see whether everybody is receiving what it is thought they should receive. You cannot do that in our system. You cannot call the system to account. You cannot even tell teachers what you are asking of them."

In a television interview in December, Baker gave the first

hint of how his mind was working. He spoke of a bill, if the Conservatives won the next election, which would give his department the power to lay down the essential elements of what every child should learn in primary and secondary school. Attainment targets would be set so that teachers, parents and pupils would know exactly what should have been learnt at the ages of nine, 11 and 14.

A month later, at an education conference in Rotherham, he revealed just how well he had learnt Bolton's lessons. Britain, he said, had a "maverick" education system with weaknesses that did not arise in those West European countries where the schools followed national syllabuses.

He said we could not continue with a system under which teachers decided what children should learn without reference to clearly agreed objectives. Not all children were learning the same things; those in similar circumstances were having different amounts of money spent on them; their schools were organized differently; their teachers had not been trained in the same way. The result was that although the system was good in parts, it was bad in others and that was intolerable.

And so Baker gave notice of his intention to sweep away all the variety and inconsistency that had so long been praised as evidence of a vibrant system of locally run schools.

Yesterday, he repeated the message, but more bluntly: "We can no longer leave individual teachers, schools or local education authorities to decide the curriculum children should follow," he said. It was a statement that none of his predecessors would ever have dared utter; most could not even have conceived it. That it was received yesterday so calmly is the clearest possible illustration of how much has changed. A system laid down in the Butler Act of 1944, under which nearly every parent of present school-age children was educated, is about to be swept away—and on the essential matter of a national curriculum there is hardly a word of protest.

Indeed, the idea has the specific support of both the main opposition parties, the local education authorities and the headteachers. They have all been mobilized by the emphasis which Baker has given since January on the importance of securing a national consensus on the range and content of a national curriculum. The local authorities' dissent stems from their unhappiness that education is slipping from their grasp; they would like to be in charge of the national curriculum themselves.

More problematical and controversial is the question of attainment targets. Setting them, so that they will realistically measure the achievements of a broad range of ability, is a particularly difficult task, as the Secondary Examinations Council has found in its urgent efforts to specify exactly what GCSE candidates should know and be able to do to qualify for each of seven grades.

One danger is setting targets too low, so tempting teachers to level down. Another is to allow the targets to become a straitjacket, so stifling the rewarding and exciting things that happen in the best classrooms. A third danger is that numbers of teachers and those who train teachers are fundamentally opposed to the whole ethos of rigorous measurement.

Baker will have much opposition to overcome and will need all the inspiration and support he can gather from those he referred to yesterday as the best brains in the country. But if he succeeds, the great majority of parents are very likely to thank him.

Wanted: a permanent police watchdog

The Police Complaints Authority, whose second annual report is published today, is almost universally unloved. It counts among its critics not only the National Council for Civil Liberties but also the Police Federation. From all quarters the demand is virtually the same: replace it with a truly independent complaints authority with its own investigative staff.

But would such an independent complaints authority be any more effective? "Operation Countryman", which investigated allegations of corruption in the Metropolitan Police, came close to being the kind of external investigation which critics of the PCA now advocate. Yet "Countryman" failed to substantiate any cases of corruption and was concluded in acrimony with the investigators making allegations of obstruction and non-cooperation. Advocates of an independent complaints authority do not explain how some future independent external investigation could crack the obstructive solidarity that allegedly frustrated the "Countryman" team.

It was that same solidarity which, much to the embarrassment of Scotland Yard, the Home Office and the PCA, also frustrated for nearly 18 months the inquiry into the alleged assault of three youths by police officers in Holloway Road. The uncomfortable fact is that most incidents

which lead to complaints occur in conditions of virtual privacy in a house, a quiet street, inside the police car or police station. Often it is the complainant's word against that of the officer.

In establishing their case, many complainants suffer from a lack of credibility: for example, they might have been under arrest at the time of the alleged incident or have a criminal conviction, either of which could mean they harboured a grudge; or they might have been intoxicated or have a history of mental disorder which calls into question the reliability of their testimony. As the PCA made clear in its first annual report, a complaint should be established beyond a reasonable doubt, and the uncorroborated testimony of a witness of doubtful credibility often falls well short of that criterion.

As the complaints procedure has progressively approximated a quasi-judicial hearing, so the rights of the accused officer have been correspondingly protected: for example he or she now has the right to legal representation. All this has made the substantiation of complaints more difficult, as Sir Robert Mark prophesied. He pointed out that he would have been unable to rid the Metropolitan Police of corrupt officers in the early 1970s had he been required to conform to such a system. Yet it

is these very features of the system that critics wish to enhance.

What is wrong with the complaints procedure is not its lack of independence but its adherence to the British obsession with 'accusatorial justice'. The only question that can be considered is whether some identified officer committed a specified disciplinary offence. Thus, when officers attacked the "peace convoy" in the Wiltshire bean field two years ago, or when the Manchester police cleared the university steps of students protesting against a visit by Mr Leon Brittan, the issue to be determined was which of them had used excessive force. What lies outside the scope of the inquiry is the prudence shown by senior officers in their command of either of these situations.

The fact that, according to the PCA report, so many officers used excessive force during the Wiltshire incident suggests that this was not simply the result of individual waywardness. Equally, the failure of the Manchester police to occupy the steps of the students union well before the protestors assembled would seem to have been an error for which senior officers were responsible.

Unfortunately, the PCA is explicitly forbidden from considering the policy of a police force. In consequence, senior officers remain insulated from criticism behind a protective wall of disci-

plinary rules, and it is the lower ranks alone who have to shoulder responsibility.

What is required is not an accusatorial hearing but an inquiry into what happened, why it happened, and how it could be remedied. The Scarman inquiry into the Brixton riots revealed not only a lack of mature judgement among some individual police officers but wider failings in police command and policy. As a result it had an enormous impact upon the police service, causing a fundamental reappraisal of training and liaison with the community.

Although the Scarman inquiry dealt with a single episode of serious public disorder, it could nevertheless provide a model for an effective means of review. A "standing Scarman" could inquire into specific incidents, such as those in Wiltshire and Manchester, or more general issues giving cause for public concern, such as the police use of firearms.

Of course an inquiry might conclude that someone should face a disciplinary hearing and, if found guilty, he or she should suffer the appropriate penalty. However, improving the service the public receives is at least as important as exacting retribution.

P.A.J. Waddington

The author is Lecturer in Sociology at Reading University.

Woodrow Wyatt

Falklands: no yielding

It was inevitable that last week's fifth anniversary of the Argentine invasion of the Falklands should raise fresh speculation over their future. The Falklands will not be so prominent in the coming election as they were in the last, but there will be allusions.

Only the government is unequivocal in its determination that there can be no negotiations with Argentina about sovereignty, though there should be about normal relations. The Labour Party wants negotiations on sovereignty. The SDP/Liberal Alliance offers its customary muddle: to go to the United Nations with the aim that the islands should become some kind of UN strategic trust territory. The alternative to the straightforward government stance of keeping the islands British, aside from the unlikely eventuality of the islanders opting to become Argentine, is to say that we were right to recapture the islands but not to retain them.

This cannot be, because the Falklands were never Argentine in any real sense. Argentina's claim must rest on being the heir to the Spanish connection. In 1771 Spain ceded the right to the islands to Britain. For a few years before 1833 the republic of Buenos Aires, when Argentina did not exist, had a small settlement there. Since 1833 the islands, with no indigenous inhabitants, have been colonized by the British.

Intermittently the Argentines have made a fuss, though not much until recent times. But 60 years ago Argentina strangely listed South Georgia as one of its possessions and in 1948, still more strangely, claimed the South Sandwich Islands, the South Orkneys, the South Shetlands and most of British Antarctica. This is on top of its tenuous claim to the Falkland Islands themselves.

Should the Falklands be ceded to the Argentine republic on the grounds of continuity? Hardly. The nearest Argentine port is over 300 miles away from the Falklands and up to 2,000 miles from the extra bits. If continuity were a valid argument what are we doing in the Channel Islands with Alderney nine miles from the French coast? We have not even made up our minds to hand over Gibraltar on the Spanish mainland, though its military and economic significance is now almost zero. And what is the USA doing in the huge territories it stole from Mexico in the mid-19th century?

One argument for the surrender of the Falklands is that the Argentines, poor dears, want them so badly and that temporarily they have a democracy because its dictators failed to take the Falklands. There is no certainty that the gift of the Falklands would ensure future democracy.

Insofar as the Argentine demand is rational it would appear to have a deeper purpose. There is a strong possibility that between the Falklands and Argentina there is a lot of oil to which the British are entitled to a half share on the meridian line principle. Antarctica contains large quantities of coal and platinum, possibly of gas and oil, and there may be opals

and diamonds. If Argentina owned the Falklands and their dependencies, the gateway to Antarctica, it would be able effectively to enforce its late-in-the-day claim to almost all British Antarctica—and our descendants would be very much the losers.

It would be very nice for Argentina to have free the splendid modern airport we have built at Mount Pleasant at a cost of £350 million. That and the harbours of the Falklands would make Argentina supreme in the South Atlantic and in Antarctica. In the event of another global war fought without nuclear weapons, the South Atlantic convoy route—if Britain did not possess the Falklands—would be in jeopardy, as it could have been during the last two great wars.

Those who want to surrender the Falklands emphasize the cost of maintaining them. But the cost of the campaign, and of the airport, amounting to around £2,500 million, have already been paid. Is this investment to be tossed away? In 1987-88 the cost is some £257 million, of which about £140 million is going on the garrison of between 1,500 and 2,000 servicemen. That garrison would have had to be somewhere, and if it was in Germany we would not have paid for it in sterling but in foreign exchange. The cost of maintaining the defence of the Falklands is falling fast; in an emergency reinforcements could now be flown from Britain within 16 hours, so doing away with the need for so large a garrison. It is officially estimated that in 1988-89 the military expenditure will be down to £159 million and in the following year £124 million, a tiny fraction of the global defence budget.

The introduction of fishing licences will yield the Falklands an income of £12 million this year, three times their annual budget. Together with other developments, and discounting future bonanzas in oil and gas, the Falklanders are in line to becoming a prosperous community not dependent, apart from defence, on Britain. Since 1885 they have sent more money to Britain than the other way round.

It is illogical to equate the Falklands with the colonies we gave up. They went because democratically we believed that when the inhabitants wanted self-rule they should be allowed it, however badly it might turn out.

The Falklanders emphatically want to stay British; with modern communications there is no logical reason why they should not. plus the growing prospects of great riches for us to follow. This is not a colonial issue of one race lordling it over another or stealing someone else's land; the issue is whether we feebly intend to negotiate away the sacrifices of those who died in the Falklands war, and the once-for-all expenses we were put to, or whether we intend to hold on to territories we have peopled for more than 150 years, and from which we have done no one any harm, despite the fears of the pusillanimous at home and the criticism of uninformed enemies abroad.

Richard Heller

Accentuate the negative

The Hollywood comedy actor W.C. Fields hated politics and politicians, but he always voted. Asked why, he snarled: "I vote against". Millions of people in Britain would like to vote against, but our electoral system does not give them the chance. To vote against any one candidate means having to vote for one of the others. This is decidedly risky, for that vote might mean that someone gets elected.

It would be very easy to remedy this defect. All we need is the provision of a negative ballot paper as an alternative to the regular one. If an elector could not bear to cast a positive ballot in favour of any of the candidates, he or she could ask for this negative paper. It would be of a different colour but would otherwise be virtually identical to a list of candidates and their party affiliation, a space for the "X" and the instruction: "You may vote against not more than one candidate".

Why not take it further, you might ask, and allow people to vote against as many as they please? There might be two, three or more candidates who were equally rotten. Well there might, but one man, one vote, that's the basis of democracy, whether for or against. Voters-against would have to think long and hard and decide which candidate they most wanted to keep out of Parliament.

At the count, votes against each candidate would be kept separately and at the end would be counted and subtracted from the "for" votes. The winner would be the candidate with the greatest number of positive votes over negative. A typical count might be: "Daley" (Conservative) votes for 5,567, against 7,338. Aggregate: minus 1,771. Lympie Lettice (Alliance) votes for 737, against 1,265. Aggregate: minus 528. Wooster (Labour and Spartacus) votes for 5,763, against 7,987. Aggregate: minus 2,224. Zyzko-Zucchini, Zachary (Alphabet Soup Party) votes for 6, against 1. Aggregate: plus 5, and I therefore declare the

said Zachary etc to be the duly elected member.

It might be thought undemocratic that Mr Z should get into Parliament with only six votes in his favour. Not so. In my example he was quite clearly the electors' non-negative choice. The other three candidates were unequivocally rejected by 15,590 electors; Mr Z had offended only one—and perhaps that one voter was simply being perverse, or had made a mistake. Once in Parliament Mr Z would be set for a brilliant career. He would have every incentive to keep his head down and avoid either speaking or voting. Were he to do either he would offend some of his (non-)electors and pick up negative votes next time around. So a sensible Mr Z, MP, would murmur his maiden speech in favour of Alphabet Reform and then shut up for the rest of that parliament.

Imagine an MP who never shouted abuse, never made phoney points of order, never uncovered long dead spies, never gave daft instant quotes to newspapers, never smirked or snarled on TV. Mr Z for PM! But it wouldn't be possible without negative voting.

It is possible, of course, that every candidate would come out of the election count with a negative aggregate vote. In that case they should accept the verdict of democracy. Nobody wanted them. They all lose. When that happened the constituency should be given a choice: either get by without an MP (and use his salary to pay for something useful, like an all-weather cricket pitch) or choose one by lottery from the constituency's unemployed.

The fact is that Britain is not a true democracy. It will not become one until we get negative voting. We deserve the right not only to try to send someone to Parliament but to try to keep someone as far away from Parliament as we can. Only one thing stands in the way: the self-interest of British politicians, it's understandable. Negative voting is the one system which would give the chance to sack them all.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

WHEN GORBACHOV SNEEZES

The Kremlin cold permits of many meanings. One strain, manifested in an aching tooth, prevented Mr Khrushchev accompanying Harold Macmillan to Kiev in 1959. Another, of a lingering variety, proved fatal to Mr Andropov in 1983. Mr Chernenko's cold concealed chronic heart disease. Now Mr Gorbachov has succumbed to the malady. His visit to Prague, expected to begin on Monday, has been postponed as a result.

The timing of Mr Gorbachov's cold has prompted speculation that his too is a diplomatic indisposition. Whether it is to suit himself, his would-be hosts, or some other group entirely is not quite clear.

The Soviet leader's reform programme has caused undisguised confusion in Prague. The very mention of reform recalls the hopeful days of the Prague Spring—and the Soviet intervention which brought it to an end.

A succession of senior officials from Moscow has visited Prague to prepare Mr Gorbachov's way. Two weeks ago there was a cacophony of voices in Prague. Some were in favour of reform, some against. All of them were trying to avoid the analogy with 1968. Then suddenly everything was resolved. Gustav Husak, the ageing General Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and chief beneficiary of the Soviet intervention, nailed his colours firmly to the mast of "restructuring" and uttered the taboo word "reform" for all to hear.

Had Mr Husak moved too fast? Did the leadership in Prague need more time to absorb the full import of

projected change in Moscow? Were there worries in Czechoslovakia about the reception a Soviet leader would be accorded if he implied that the Prague Spring might, 20 years later, blossom into a belated summer?

Sundry voices have suggested that Moscow wants thorough change in Prague, starting with Mr Husak himself, who would then become the first East European leader to retire "voluntarily". The idea was even aired that Mr Gorbachov might have wanted to pay his respects to Alexander Dubcek? Talk of attracting a broader cross-section of people to administrative posts rings hollow in Czechoslovakia if those genuine reformers who were once inside the party are still shunned.

Others see Mr Gorbachov's cold as having a more political cause, contracted at home in Moscow. He is expected in Prague to broach a number of defence issues: the possible removal of the enhanced range missiles stationed in Czechoslovakia three years ago. He might also propose a limited withdrawal of Soviet troops. There have already been small troop reductions on the eastern frontiers: in Afghanistan, Mongolia and on the Sino-Soviet border. But even such small reductions on the Western frontier, the Nato frontier, might not have been acceptable to comrades of a more old-fashioned disposition in Moscow.

There is the added factor of Mrs Thatcher's visit and its possible effect on the Soviet leader's political standing at home. A diplomatic triumph for her without doubt—but

Moscow may have judged its leader's performance differently. Already the television journalists who interviewed her have been criticized. They were said to have been over-indulgent on the one hand and outmanoeuvred on the other. Maybe Mr Gorbachov has also been taken to task for allowing her so much latitude. The account of last Thursday's Politburo meeting was strangely reticent on the subject.

Given that the Thatcher visit may not have been considered an unalloyed success for Mr Gorbachov, he might have deemed it unwise to go immediately to Prague where a diplomatic triumph may be equally uncertain. Alternatively, in view of his failed attempts to convince Mrs Thatcher of his views on INF, he may have wanted to prepare more thoroughly for the US Secretary of State's visit next week.

Amid all this speculation and doubt, the one certainty is that Mr Gorbachov was expected in Prague on Monday. The flags were out, the windows dressed, the fraternal friendship television programmes screened, and the international press centre ready. While the precise date had not been announced, both Prague and Moscow had—in a departure from previous practice—given it wide circulation.

One of the penalties of even such limited glasnost is that postscripted notes have to be published. It is just possible that the concept of glasnost has been extended to the hitherto hypersensitive subject of the leader's health—in which case the official Soviet explanation of the delay might be correct.

ANOTHER SIEGE, ANOTHER CEREMONY

As long as there are people convicted of terrorist crimes in prison in Northern Ireland, there will be special problems for the authorities arising from their incarceration. They will in general be less resigned to their sentences. They will have allies on the outside who will play on public sympathies not usually available to criminals who hope to shorten their sentences. The very existence of prisoners claiming allegiance to terrorist organisations can become a question to be argued—and bargained over—between authorities and terrorists.

Any government which determines—as both Labour and Conservative administrations have done in Britain—that the long haul against these and other pressures is worthwhile has to accustom itself to sieges such as the one at Magilligan prison. This stance is right, but it carries penalties which have to be properly understood by the public at large if they are to be seen to be worthwhile by officials and ministers.

This is not a problem only for the short term. Successive governments over many years will have to face it. The return on this investment of consistency ought to be the successful transmission of a hard message to intending terrorists of the future. This is some way off.

The siege at Magilligan is a

small-scale variant of the issue which was fought out in the Republican hunger strikes of six years ago. Convicted terrorists are criminals. But they are something else as well. They are entitled to claim that their motive is different from other occupants of prison cells. But they must also accept that any such difference is less important than the fact that their acts are criminal.

That is the consideration which underpins the policy of treating all convicted prisoners in the same way and not creating special status by any symbolic difference at all. This does not mean that all prisoners will be held in identical conditions; some will require higher degrees of security than others, and so on. But these distinctions are administrative and are the proper preserve of the prison authorities using their discretion to judge what is best in a particular time and place.

That discretion is subject to review by the Prisons Inspectorate. Any observer tempted towards the cynical observation that such an inspectorate cannot be independent of the service it supervises should recall the bitter disputes which erupted in the wake of the Chief Inspector of Prisons report on the mass breakout from the Maze in 1983.

If the prison authorities consider it feasible to de-

segregate prisoners in the way that the convicted loyalists find objectionable, then the Government's task is to support that position and to ensure that policy is formed by choice and not by force. The British Government's fortitude on this type of matter has not been achieved without mistakes along the way. But the fact that one government made the grievous error of conceding political status is no reason at all for the present one to feel defensive or inconsistent about applying a far better principle now and in the future.

The same considerations apply to the row over the IRA funeral. In the past, the police have looked impotent and felt themselves forced to concede propaganda victories to paramilitaries when guns have been fired over coffins—an activity which, as many of the braver priests have pointed out, has nothing to do with funeral worship at all.

By graduated degrees, they have mastered the techniques of cramping the paramilitary style without touching off a riot. This too is a policy which requires patience and judgement in application over a long time. In particular, it requires fresh reserves of strength when the opponents of the security forces respond to their success by finding new causes of complaint.

TROUBLE IN SPAIN

The second honeymoon for Felipe Gonzalez, the Socialist prime minister who has steered Spain back into the mainstream of European politics, is well and truly over. Nine months after being returned to power, he is facing industrial unrest in almost every sector of the Spanish economy.

Nearly a million discontented Spaniards, from the professional as well as the working classes, are expected to strike for at least part of this week over wage restraint and continuing unemployment—now standing at around three million. As one commentator has put it, the only people who seem to be unaffected are the bullfighters.

Nor is the end in sight. Dismayed hoteliers in Majorca and Minorca have to contemplate being cut off from their clients over Easter. One million tourists to Spain and its islands could be affected—a serious potential blow to the national economy.

Senor Gonzalez is discovering that before the last election he promised what he could not deliver. Since then the people have been patiently waiting. He raised the expectations of

Spanish workers, whose wages are well below the European average, to a level which could not be sustained. Now the left is rounding on its former champion, accusing him of pursuing reactionary economic policies.

The government will, however, only be stacking up problems for the future if it gives way to extravagant wage demands. With an inflation rate of 8.3 per cent last year, more than double the European Community average, it had tried to maintain an upper limit for wage increases of 5 per cent this year—in line with the target inflation figure for 1987. Communist leaders are already boasting that rises so far have reached an average of 7.15 per cent. For a prime minister who is determined to make industry more efficient and better able to face fierce European competition this is a perilous trend.

Senor Gonzalez had a successful honeymoon to his first administration. The second has not been quite so happy. The glamour of the Socialist government and its young ministers, dedicated to leading their country into a

new age of prosperity and enlightenment, has worn thin. The electorate wants pleasant rewards for its support, not a promise of new pain to come. There is also a fresh feeling of confidence among the unions—recovering their strength after 40 years under Franco.

Gonzalez has spoken in the past of a changing Spain. The country has indeed changed, but his party has changed the more dramatically. By swinging towards the centre it has made itself respectable both inside and outside Spain—alleviating fears among its new partners in the Community and Nato. But the switch last year from opposition to Spanish membership of Nato to vigorous support for it alienated supporters on the left who are now attempting to win back lost ground.

Gonzalez ought to be able to weather the storm. His party has shown itself capable of strong leadership and alive to its responsibilities during testing times. But he will need all his political skill to convince left, right and centre in modern Spain that there are no easy alternatives to the course he is pursuing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping control of immigrants

From the Minister of State, Home Office

Sir, In his article (April 6) on the carriers' Bill Bernard Levin simply ignores the realities of immigration control and perpetuates romantic myths. I scoured his article in vain for a fact, as opposed to a prejudice, to support his argument, or even a recognition that there might be a problem something which even opponents of the Bill in the Commons accepted.

Mr Levin alleges that the Bill demands such documents as a valid passport from people whose "whole need for asylum" is that they are denied such instruments by their governments; but if lack of documentation were so intrinsic a feature of refugees, the phenomenon of large numbers of asylum-seekers with forged documents arriving at our ports would have been with us for as long as air travel. But it has been a very recent phenomenon and those who have been arriving with forged documents have not normally used them to get out of their own countries. They have used them to travel here from safe third countries, having left their own countries with valid documents and then destroyed or falsified them on the way.

Mr Levin alleges that the Bill was introduced in an atmosphere of contrived prejudice. Not so. It was introduced to combat a real threat to the integrity of immigration control and refugee procedures such as is faced by many countries. Belgium, Denmark, Canada, Germany, the USA, New Zealand, Australia and the Netherlands have all introduced or are introducing similar legislation to deal with similar problems. Or are all their governments as wicked as he claims we are?

The Government will, of course, continue to observe the

United Nations Convention on Refugees and there is nothing in the Bill which is in any way inconsistent with the Convention. It does Mr Levin little credit that he is not prepared to accept that others are just as concerned about the fate of the genuine refugee as he but are not prepared to let refugee procedures be used as a means of evading the immigration control.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WADDINGTON,
Home Office,
Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
April 7.

From the Director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Sir, Concern about the effects on refugees of the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Bill is widespread. Refugees coming to our shores may now be repatriated by the Home Office without recourse to any review procedure and may no longer have the opportunity to plead their case for political asylum.

Those of our patients who have not yet been granted political asylum are now terrified lest they be repatriated to face further torture. Some have begun to speak of suicide.

We believe that anyone seeking asylum on the grounds of persecution should have an automatic right of appeal to an impartial body before they face the threat of deportation.

Refugees who are being stopped by the Bill from reaching UK soil are denied even that small chance to seek asylum from persecution.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN BAMBER, Director,
Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture,
2nd Floor, Insult Wing,
National Temperance Hospital,
100-114, Hampstead Road, NW1.

Archbishop's views

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury's critics (April 2) have a small point in saying that he is too soft-hearted about proclaiming Christian standards. Christ did indeed say "Be ye perfect," with no get-out. He also called his generation "evil and adulterous." But is that the sort of language his critics would really prefer him to use? If he did, your postbags would be even bulkier on the other side.

I would like to see anybody do his job better. He has shown prodigious moral courage in championing the oppressed at home and abroad, which has raised the anger of the authorities.

orchestrated in assiduous press briefings. He is in fact one of the few people of his generation who has most of the others who have shown real leadership in this field are under 50—the Prince Charles, Terry Waite, Bob Geldof, etc. His main offence, for which he is carpentered today, seems to be in not rebuking those who have not followed him.

He prefers to lead by example, and a lot of people in the waste places of Africa, the UK, and elsewhere, have a lot to thank him for (Matthew, xxv).

Yours etc,
HUGH HANNING,
18 Montpelier Row, SE3,
April 2.

Rules of evidence

From Mr Stephen Parish

Sir, Contrary to fears expressed in certain quarters during its passage as a Bill, the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 has introduced many safeguards for accused persons. Apparently, Mr Justice Hodgson ruled inadmissible confessions of defendants in the Blakeford murder trial on the basis of breaches of the Act; it seems that police officers were afraid that if a solicitor were allowed access he would advise his client to say nothing.

The law must be cautious to safeguard the innocent, but this does not mean that artificial handicaps and obstacles must be placed in the way of the police which can only protect the guilty. In the days when a person could be interrogated without a solicitor, the record of which was a dubious making up of notes by police officers hours later, there was every justification for a suspect, guilty or innocent, to remain silent. But where, as under the 1984 Act it normally does, an interview takes place in the presence of a solicitor and is either tape-recorded or contemporaneously noted and signed, why should a suspect not be required to answer questions?

I am not advocating the rack or the thumbscrew; simply the warning that a person does not have to answer questions but that adverse inferences may be drawn at his trial if he does not. After all, this would be doing nothing more than making a rule of evidence of what the man on the Clapham omnibus would regard as a commonsense principle, which, when he enters the jury box, he is directed by the Judge he must not apply.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN PARISH,
2 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

Turner bequest

From the Chairman of the Turner Society

Sir, Evelyn Joy (March 26) bids us now to rejoice to see the paintings left in Turner's studio re-united, with two exceptions, under one roof. This is misleading.

As he points out later in his long article, the masterpieces at the National Gallery, such as the "Fighting Temeraire", are only on a brief loan to the Clore Gallery.

The National Gallery has not renounced its claim to these.

The same happened in 1910, when the National Gallery briefly lent that and other masterpieces for the opening of the Duveen Turner galleries at the Tate.

Ever since at least 1861 the National Gallery has wanted to keep a few of the best Turners for itself and, contrary to Turner's will, to lend, give or sell the rest off elsewhere. For this reason the Turner Society argues that the only way to ensure the integrity of the Turner bequest is through an Act of Parliament vesting it in a board of Turner bequest trustees.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY WARBURTON,
Chairman,
The Turner Society,
BCM Box Turner, London, WC1.

Der Silbersee

From Mr Stanley Sadie

Sir, In his review today (April 1) of Weill's *Der Silbersee*, your music critic reproduces Camden Festival's claim that their staging of the work was the first in this country. A similar claim was made, clearly with more likelihood of accuracy, for a performance on June 19, 1982, at the University Theatre, Manchester, conducted by Professor Ian Kemp, which I reviewed in your columns two days later.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY SADIE, Editor,
The New Grove Dictionary of Music & Musicians,
The Macmillan Press Ltd,
4 Little Essex Street, WC2,
April 1.

Buying a house

From Mr John Hatfield

Sir, If the vendor or agent had to provide both the local searches and a survey from a qualified surveyor with the details of the property, contracts could be exchanged within days. Also, if estate agents took half their commission from the vendor and half from the purchaser, it would be in their interests to protect both parties.

In the legal profession it is considered unethical for the same solicitor to represent both parties. Not so in the property market.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HATFIELD,
153 Brompton Park Crescent, SW6.

Urban sprawl

From Councillor R. M. Bircumshaw

Sir, Professor Howard Newby's "Two-nation countryside" (March 24) is clearly not aware of the strategic planning problems faced by Dorset county councillors and their officers.

The structure plan for south-east Dorset, which includes Bournemouth and Poole, aimed during the period 1976-96 to create 32,500 new jobs, with about 7,500 in manufacturing, and the rest in service or office employment over the same period. 35,000 new houses were planned. The disturbing situation today is

that, while the job creation has failed, some 21,000 new dwellings had already been built by 1985. By 1996, if the annual rate of building is not contained, about 62,000 houses will have been constructed or 177 per cent of the structure plan.

It has been suggested that developers might subscribe to the infrastructure in return for planning approval. In such a case, rate-payers would still have to bear additional capital costs and consequent revenue expenditure. And Government policies invariably lead to the Department of the Environment allowing large-scale development to proceed against local council wishes.

Defending front line in Europe

From Mr Michael Chichester

Sir, Sir Reginald Hibbert (feature, March 26) is right to point out that more co-operation in conventional defence is the new element needed to advance once more towards a European Defence Community (EDC) and that the return of France to the "front line" would be an essential prerequisite to the achievement of movement in this direction.

But it will be fruitless to draw up plans for an EDC unless they are based on a practical and realistic assessment of the conventional military threats to Western Europe now and in the future and of the types of weapons and forces needed to meet these threats. Europe's "front line" is no longer confined to the north German plain: it now extends from the North Cape to Turkey in vast arcs both to the west and to the east of this line. These arcs embrace not only the land frontiers of Western Europe but its ocean approaches and the air space over them as well. Maritime, land, and air forces are needed to defend in depth this extended front line.

The logical and cost-effective way in which to share the burdens of this tripartite defence of Europe is for the Continental allies, headed by Germany and France in the central region, to be responsible for the defence of the land frontiers whilst Britain, aided by France and the smaller coastal nations, including Spain, provides the bulk of the maritime and air forces to defend the sea and air approaches to Europe, especially on the north-west flank. Britain's land force contribution should consist primarily of rapid deployment reinforcement forces for the northern sector of the front line.

Britain should therefore take advantage of the moves towards a Paris-Bonn defence accord by proposing a new strategic plan for the defence of Western Europe based on these lines. Such a plan would bring about the changes in this country's conventional contribution to the defence of Europe which have now become necessary to halt the growing imbalance in the structure of Britain's Armed Forces caused by rigid adherence to the Brussels Treaty commitment over two decades of defence retrenchment.

Britain's "steadfastness" in European defence must continue, but in ways more appropriate to her economic circumstances, the changed threat to Europe, and her own national defence needs.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL CHICHESTER,
The Mead House,
Taynton, Burford,
Oxfordshire,
March 30.

Digging up the past

From Dr R. A. W. Longden

Sir, Today I received a letter from a former student who is seeking approval from the Department of Education and Science to teach in the State secondary school system. He is now a bachelor of science, doctor of philosophy, chartered biologist, member of the Institute of Biology, Fellow of the Linnean Society, and holds a Certificate in Education (Further Education).

The department require details of the mathematics syllabus for his Ordinary National Certificate in Sciences—taken in 1973 and approximately equivalent to today's O level, without which they are unable to recognise his suitability.

Flora Scientia! But perhaps not in State secondary schools.

Yours faithfully,
R.A.W. LONGDEN,
Acting Principal,
Worley College of Technology,
Crocketts Lane,
Smethwick, Warley,
Sandwell, West Midlands,
April 1.

Taste in television

From Mr Ray Lawton

Sir, In *The Times* of April 3 Mr Michael Grade argues that Mr Howarth's attempt in Parliament to bring broadcasting under the provisions of the Obscene Publications Act will be dangerous to broadcasters. Cannot Mr Grade see that the pendulum has swung much too far one way and that Mr Winston Churchill, in 1986, and Mr Howarth now have only been trying to achieve a modicum of balance against the push by broadcasters to release into people's living rooms some TV programmes that are highly offensive to very many viewers?

Broadcasters need to be creative, but innovation in art and drama need not be so lacking in taste as it sometimes is. *The Singing Detective* should be the limit of the pendulum and Mr Howarth is right to try and say to the broadcasters—no further.

Yours faithfully,
RAY LAWTON,
8 Dunstall Field,
Cottenham, Cambridge,
April 3.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 8 1927

Tangier, at the western entrance to the Mediterranean, was especially active diplomatically, because of the conflicting interests of the four powers involved—Britain, France, Spain and Italy. The seaport was at the time a neutralized zone. It now forms part of Morocco.

A TANGIER COMEDY

DIPLOMACY AND THE LAPWING

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

TANGIER, April 7. A message published in *The Times* of March 23 referred to the enormous trial of a Frenchman accused of shooting a lapwing on land over which the diplomatic representatives at Tangier claim, under a concession from a long-deceased Sultan, to have sporting rights. For long years this reserve has been their playground. Here, away from the public gaze, they have ridden after boar and fallen off their horses, have shot at rare rabbits and missed elusive snipe. As many diplomatic reputations have been made and lost by the waters of Shari el Akab, as have been made and lost in Tangier's Legations. With admirable tenacity, generations of diplomats have clung to this concession. Sultans have come and gone, treaties have been made and unmade, Tangier's entire status has been altered, but this privilege has survived all the vicissitudes of fortune. Any threat to curtail it has always brought about diplomatic unity which nothing else could achieve.

In the lower Court the Frenchman lost his case and was fined 1.50f. He appealed and the case has just been reheard. During this second trial extracts from the message to *The Times* of March 23 were read out in Court to show the importance of the case. A majority of the Judges of the Court of Appeal yesterday reversed the judgment of the lower Court. They did not dispute the existence or legality of the concession, but found that the limits of the sporting reserve have been marked out with a certain traditional diplomatic disregard for exactitude and precision. To put it delicately, the diplomatic houses, like their dispatches, left room for manoeuvring. The Frenchman was, therefore, vindicated.

The Court has throughout this long trial taken immense trouble. The Judges of Appeal again visited the scene of the slaughter of the lapwing. They reclined on the very spot where the Frenchman had sat and taken his long, steady aim at the sitting bird. They moved on a few yards and examined the position where the unwitting and over-confident lapwing had watched the Frenchman plotting death. The whole scene was re-enacted in the presence of the entire Court, the witnesses, the police and others. Of all who had figured in the tragedy only the lapwing was missing.

The verdict has caused a certain amused satisfaction amongst the public. In diplomatic circles it is considered as shaking the very foundations of Tangier's existence. Many officials who yesterday were zealous supporters of the International Statute to day describe it as subversive of all law and order and a direct incentive to Communism. The offspring of diplomacy, the Mixed Tribunal, has betrayed its trust. The infallibility of the diplomatic boundaries has been questioned.

The Selbourne case

From Dr L. J. Macfarlane

Sir, *The Times* leader of March 17 takes to task "the worthy [academic] advisers" to Ruskin College (Professor Halsey, Lord McCarthy and myself) for producing a report on academic freedom, characterised as "a remarkably slippery exercise in having your cake and eating it", which "not worth the eight pages it is written on".

The purpose of our report was not the one attributed to us by *The Times* of retrospectively justifying what had happened to David Selbourne, thereby ensuring that any future Selbourne would share the same fate. Nothing that we wrote could be interpreted to the effect that in our view what happened to Mr Selbourne is understandable and even justified.

As *The Times* leader makes clear, our report is concerned with the future protection of academic freedom in Ruskin College, not with the Selbourne case. Since that case is to come before the courts we cannot, as academic advisers to the college, publicly speculate as to how we would have applied the principles of the report if the issue had come before us.

Yours sincerely,
L. J. MACFARLANE,
St John's College,
Oxford.

Party spirit?

From Mrs Basil Hibbert

Sir, Mr Thorpe (April 3) refers to "inefficient research": my husband and I have received four letters from Dr David Owen, to all of which I have replied asking to be removed from the Alliance mailing lists.

Unfortunately these are all examples of the computer age: when political workers sat for hours in committees or rooms addressing envelopes it was possible to be more selective. Yours faithfully,
SUSAN HIBBERT,
Ash Cottage, Abbots Ann,
Andover, Hampshire,
April 3.

THE ARTS

Sorrrows enough

Stewart Parker is a playwright from Belfast whose work for the stage has largely been eclipsed by his habit of winning prizes for his television plays — notably *Blue Monday*. At his best, in either medium, he shows a talent for massaging his audience's prior conceptions while coaxing it into accepting the unexpected. His new six-part Ulster-opera, *Lost Belongings* (ITV), is going to have its work cut out doing any such thing.

The first episode set up a fairly routine compromised romance between a Catholic musician and a schoolgirl

TELEVISION

orphan of mixed parentage. This was less *Romeo and Juliet* than *Brothers Grimm*. The illegitimate daughter of a Catholic and a Protestant, Deirdre was raised by her intemperate Orange uncle ("Fiery Loyalist", notes the publicity material — "Blighted Brute") who, in true Dickensian fashion, would not let her forget her mother's shame. Worse: the grouchy widower made her rub liniment into his bad shoulder as he sat in his string vest at the dinner table.

This served as the prelude to unwellcome familiarities which drove our heroine to the lavatory, where under the gaze of Her Majesty the Queen she scrawled verse on the only paper to hand. After the wicked uncle, on discovering her trans-eclectic affair, physically assaulted and (we presume) raped her, he was next seen at his Orange Lodge rhapsodically condemning barbarism. In the theatre this might achieve its objective, but television is a subtler medium and the hypocrisy was unapologetically over-signalled. Mr Parker should have been content with naming his heroine Deirdre.

Away from her pitiful home, young love blossomed in a sex scene which would not have disgraced a deodorant commercial. Sated slumber was then interrupted by a dalliance from somewhere across Belfast. "It's okay, it was just a bomb," muttered the boyfriend. Later, in the only scene that really worked, Deirdre spotted what she thought was a corpse on the beach, and which turned out to be a decrepit tailor's dummy. On the evidence so far, the serial needs more such imaginative shifts to get full mileage from Catherine Brennan's sensitive central performance.

Martin Cropper



Griff Rhys Jones, unusually taking the character of Arturo Ui at Brecht's own estimation

'Actors don't have nearly enough control over their lives'

The parallels between the church and the theatre have often been noted: aside from the delights of ritual and spectacle, there is also the long tradition of skilful preaching, an art not far removed from the actor's sway over an audience. Like Laurence Olivier, Roger Allam had a father who was a priest. After a parish in Bromley-by-Bow, where Roger was born, he was given the Hawksmoor church of St Mary Woolnoth, celebrated by T.S. Eliot. "He was not a great intellectual," says Allam, "but he was a fine preacher, in a relaxed, informal sort of way."

Allam originally had plans to become an opera singer. While studying drama at Manchester University he continued to take singing lessons from John Hargreaves of the ENO, but it was theatre which finally claimed him. We are talking in a small windowless room at the Barbican, and, indeed, his voice has a round, booming resonance to it. "It can be a bit of a problem. There is always the danger of becoming over-musical and fruity."

Most actors have a formative experience in their early lives, a

Roger Allam tonight begins a busy Stratford season as Brutus in *Julius Caesar*: interview by Chris Peachment

turning-point which decides them on a career on the boards. Allam's came while he was at Christ's Hospital when he heard a recording of Paul Scofield doing Peter Brook's production of *King Lear*. For the first time, a voice made Shakespeare come alive for him. "I worked up a very good impression of Scofield, and wandered around the school imitating him. The trouble was that no one recognized it. They were all into rock stars." He then spent much of his youth going to the National Theatre in the days when it was possible to see Olivier performing at the Old Vic for just 15p, "the same as my tube fare home."

After university, he joined the Monstrous Regiment Theatre Company, and gained the sort of all-round experience only possible by touring. This formed a liking for small-scale venues, such as church halls, in which contact with the audience is more immediate. "Most new Reps built after the war are cold buildings. Quite literally, because they are all conditioned, which is disastrous. A

play should not be up throughout the evening. Sound carries better in warm air, too."

After he joined the RSC in 1981, he was part of their touring company under Sheila Hancock, doing among other things a double bill of *Titus Andronicus* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona* in one evening. The response from audiences convinced him of the worthwhile nature of touring.

After spending four years doing mostly villains, something which he relished if only for the opportunity to indulge in the therapeutic business of letting off steam in stage fights, followed by a longish spell in *Les Misérables*, he now faces three meaty roles in the new season at Stratford. Terry Hands's *Julius Caesar*, opening tonight, in which he will play Brutus, will be performed fairly simply, with the adoption of the Elizabethan habit of using contemporary dress with small additions to suggest the period. A more most daunting role however, for

Horror-comic monster

THEATRE

The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui Queen's

into an arid polemic encased in a gangster-movie parody. Think of the first images of Schall and Rossiter, craving an audience with the cauliflower barons: Schall bent double at the waist in a filthy old raincoat, Rossiter twisted into a corkscrew posture expressing the frustration of an ambitious potency. What Mr Jones offers instead of these specific images is the generalized picture of an underworld supplicant with a slimy smile.

Affecting a crumpled pin-stripe suit, pudding-basin haircut and (his best feature) prominent, unblinking eyes, he approaches the role as yet another comic task, following his *Charley's Aunt* and *Sir Epicure*. True to the English comic tradition (alternative or straight) the comedy is at his own expense. He may suddenly turn nasty against Dogsborough (alias Hindenburg), but at the next moment he is down on his knees blubbering for support. He notches up reliable laughs in the scene where he goes to an old actor (Hugh Padghug) for voice and posture lessons; but there is no satanic thrill at the

birth of the Hitler salute and the scream of the demagogue from these ludicrous sessions. If there is any comparison to be drawn, it is with Chaplin's Great Dictator, with which Mr Jones shares a similar comic innocence, if not Chaplin's acrobatic skills.

The surrounding production — played on Roger Glossop's assemblies of wooden crates against a background of grimy warehouse windows — lacks the sense of directorial strategy. It is at its considerable best in the big historical reconstructions of the Reichstag Fire trial and the assassination of Rohm's S.A. (acknowledged in the programme as the "Night of the Long Knives"). When we get to the Cauliflower Trust, and even the thieves' kitchen disputes, it is a long, wordy plot.

Mr Gilmore is surely as aware as anybody else that the scenes of political preparation are written as classical parodies, but the production finds no way of articulating this stylistic device — without which the scenes expire. There are two chillingly grotesque performances from Ken Bones and Lionel Haft (murderously collecting his victims' hats) as the Chicago equivalents of Goebbels and Goering; with their criminal talents, you feel they would have found a less abject, accident-prone boss.

Irving Wardle

Heaven Bent, Hell Bound The Quay, Sudbury

Recently converted from a Georgian granary, now handsomely fitted and acoustically warm, this quayside theatre harboured the Actors Touring Company on their last port of call before London, where they are now playing the same show at the Bridge Lane Theatre in Battersea.

The company specializes in the classics, European as often as English, and while their sets tend to be plain the costumes catch the eye. In their present work, *Heaven Bent, Hell Bound*, described in the publicity as "fantastical" and an "epic romp" but also, in essence, a steel-hard moral fable, the 16th-century adventurers combine dazzling white doublets with slashed faded jeans, a style bang up to the minute yet timeless.

Tirso de Molina, the original author best known for launching Don Juan into the world, follows the pattern of his time and makes his chief character commit an initial grievous fault.

While employed as a soldier Paulo cruelly killed a child — but God has forgiven him that. For 10 years he and his servant have lived as hermits until Paulo wonders if God really has forgiven him: this is his fault, mistrust, as *Damned for Doubting*, translating the original title, makes clear — though this is rather like being told at the outset who killed Roger Ackroyd.

Everything follows from his stubborn doubt. He meets Lidora, wickedest woman in the world; side-plots introduce bandits and blasphemy. John Clifford's colloquial translation expands the comedy but the tragic line remains visible, and his language illustrates character, allowing the master to praise "streams like crystal penicillins" while his servant glibly remarks that "torrents tumble down the mountain, bumping into things".

In this fine production (by Mark Brickman) performances glitter with striking detail. I commend the master and servant of Paddy Fletcher and Clive Kneller, a tempestuous Kate Ingram, Simon Tyrrell for straight-faced sarcasm, and a mesmerizing portrayal by Irene Macdonald as the deadly, velvety devil.

Jeremy Kingston



Roger Allam: Sir Toby Belch and the Duke in *Measure for Measure* await him next

CONCERTS

Capricorn Purcell Room

Capricorn's four-concert survey of contemporary Nordic music does not seem destined to challenge the widespread suspicion that Denmark currently fields the hottest compositional talents. Monday's programme, the second in the series, presented pairs of composers from Norway and Finland too, but each half was crowned by its Danish conclusion.

Possibly the Finns were handicapped, since both the elder statesman Erik Bergman and the much younger Kalevi Aho were represented by works for the unlikely and unlikely ensemble of flute, saxophone, guitar and percussion, which they both made still more regrettable by the use of noisy chords blown on the saxophone. Bergman's *Mipejupa*, named after the four players of the commissioning ensemble, had his usual brutal simplicity of imagery. Aho's Quartet was

Melos Quartet of Stuttgart St John's/Radio 3

Quite apart from the technical challenge it sets, Janáček's Quartet No 2 (the "Intimate Letters" revealing the depth of the extra-marital passion which the composer dared not fully articulate in real life) requires a two-sided commitment from its players. On the one hand, the music's feverish and untamed quality — its sudden transitions without hint of reconciliation — demands an equally intense passion in performance. Without that, the knife-edge tremolos that intrude into the finale, for instance, make little sense.

On the other hand, a level of circumspection must be maintained. In every movement there are points of tranquillity, indeed stasis, which hang on the precise timing of a single chord, or the subtle coloration of a solo recitative. It takes a rare level of physical and mental organization, and a special feeling for Janáček's unique depiction of his inner emotional life, for this music to convince as it should.

Which is all a preamble to saying that this performance,

much more considerable and musically sophisticated, the work of a natural symphonist with a taste for expressionist frenzy.

The Norwegians also came from different generations. Arne Nordheim's piano piece *Listen*, the only item predating this decade, was lucidly put on view by Ian Munro. Rolf Wallin's *Topologie d'une cité fanterne*, suffered from comparison with Birtwistle's much more haunting exercise in rippling repetitions on the model of Robbe-Grillet.

Of the Danes, Poul Ruders and Hans Abrahamsen are both comparatively and deservedly familiar, but as different as fox and hedgehog. The Ruders piece was a *jeu d'esprit*, a septet meditation on the opening of Bach's chorale prelude *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* in the manner of change-ringing. Abrahamsen's *Six Pieces* for horn trio were characteristically short, clear, perfectly formed and odd, like beautiful and sinister toys, well made to stand up to the strangeness of Ligeti's masterpiece in the same medium.

Paul Griffiths

by a quartet which knows the work better than any (the Melos was the first to record it), touched rare heights. It gathered together all the disparities — the astringent trills and weird ponticello passages, the short-lived outbursts of Moravian rusticity, the intermittent tenderness of hushed harmonies — and presented them as a cogent and thrilling whole.

Earlier in this Monday lunchtime recital the Melos Quartet made their own contribution to the recent, somewhat unexpected surge of interest in Cherubini's quartets. Well, perhaps surge is too strong a word, but this performance certainly revealed No 3 in D minor to be an ingenious and sunny piece, as full of contrast as the Janáček but worlds apart in atmosphere. There is the feeling of a coloratura aria transcribed for violin (or possibly, in the more polyphonic scurries, a Rossinian finale with an unusually inventive harmonic basis), but the spring writing is never unidiomatic, and these players invested it with characteristic poise, a seasoned perfection of ensemble and a silky homogeneity of timbre.

Richard Morrison

In subtle stages

Ronald Hayman on the work of the German playwright Botho Strauss, whose *The Tourist Guide* opens at the Almeida Theatre tonight

Strauss: meticulously honest

One of Botho Strauss's plays contains a sequence in which a man is dismembered and fed, bit by bit, into a washing-machine. But, far from being a sensationalist Strauss writes with meticulous subtlety, uncompromising honesty and great literary sophistication. He does not believe in making things easy for the audience. But now, at the age of 42, after 14 years of *succès d'estime* and *succès de scandale*, he is moving towards international success.

His 1983 play *Park* — which recycles Oberon and Titania as an elderly couple who wear raincoats and expose themselves to passers-by — was produced in more than 20 German theatres; his 1986 play, *The Tourist Guide*, which has also been seen all over Germany, opens tonight at the Almeida.

In Britain we have so far been exposed to little of his work. Adapting Gorky's *Summerfolk* for Peter Stein's Schaubühne production (staged, in German, at the National Theatre in 1977), he kept nearly all the characters on stage nearly all the time. A translation of his 1980 novel *Turner* was published in 1984 under the title *Turnus*. In 1983 Glenda Jackson was seen briefly at the Vaudeville Theatre in a drastically cut and disastrously misdirected version of his 1978 play *Great and Small*.

Unlike most of the British playwrights who have come to the fore during the last 30 years, Strauss is a working-class drama critic from 1967 to 1970, he went on to write poetry, stories and novels, as well as plays, but, unlike the Austrian and German playwrights Peter Handke, Thomas Bernhard and Thomas Brasch, who have also published narrative fiction, Strauss developed a close working relationship with a single theatre company, the Schaubühne, and its artistic director, Peter Stein.



Writing for *Theater Heute*, Strauss reviewed an early production by Stein, Schiller's *Kabale und Liebe*, and, after Stein was given the job at the Schaubühne in 1970, he invited Strauss to work on the script for his 1971 production of *Peer Gynt*, in which the role of Peer was divided between six actors. In 1972 the company staged Strauss's first play, *The Hypochondriacs*, and his six subsequent plays have all been produced there, though one was premiered in Stuttgart and two in Hamburg.

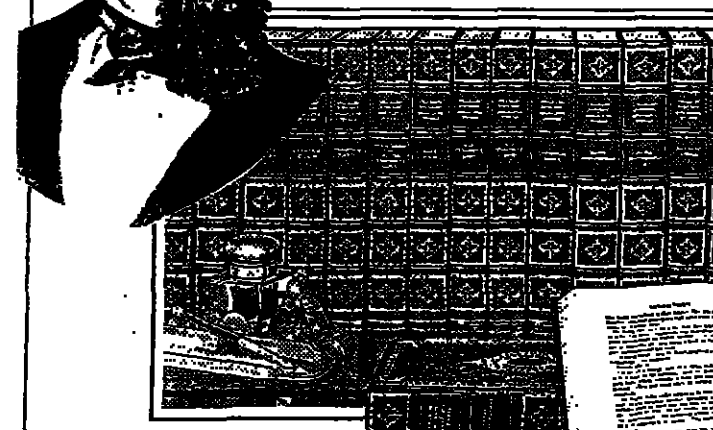
Partly through working as a dramaturg Strauss developed a close rapport with Stein and with actors in the company, especially Edith Clever, who plays Lotte in *Great and Small*. The Schaubühne has a distinctive style, which is admirably suited to Strauss's work, as his work is to its style, but this symbiosis has its disadvantages. His plays can fall flat when directed and played without a full understanding of his intentions.

If *The Tourist Guide* is more transportable than Strauss's other plays, the main reason is that more depends on the interrelationship between the two main characters, while less depends on production style. In some ways it is a simpler play than any he has written before — more like a straightforward story of love which flickers and fails — but there is no loss of subtlety in the writing.

In most of his plays the parts are better than the whole. He has experimented by shaping his forms to his obsessive themes — fragmentation, alienation. Looking backwards to the myths that express recurrent patterns in human emotionality and forwards to the effects that technological progress will have when manners catch up with it, he isolates representative units of speech and behaviour, showing how the self loses its edges, dissolving into the social milieu.

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HK sales collapse hits Riley

Riley Leisure, Britain's biggest snooker group, suffered a big setback last year when its best export market, Hong Kong, collapsed overnight.

The company managed to sell just 530 tables, compared with 2,000 in 1985, because of fears that the Hong Kong authorities were about to introduce curbs on the growth of clubs in the Crown Colony.

The drop in orders saw pretax profits fall from £751,000 to £429,000. Turnover was down from £25.7 million to £21.7 million. There is no dividend payout.

Riley, which has lived off a hotchpotch of other leisure activities, including toys, is hoping to make up the shortfall by selling more snooker tables into markets such as Japan, China, and northern Europe.

Mr Alan Deal, chairman, says his chain of 68 clubs continue to attract players but he admits the boom in snooker cannot go on indefinitely.

As a result, he is looking for other ventures in the leisure field which will complement the company's snooker interests.

At the present share price, an unchanged 55p, the company is capitalized at about £9 million.

Sunday Times print switch

Walmoughs, the Bradford printing group, is to produce *The Sunday Times Magazine*, starting with the issue of September 6, at a Scarborough plant where capacity is to be expanded.

A contract for printing the colour magazine with the Othman Sun Printers subsidiary of Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing & Communication Corporation will then have run out.

The decision to award the contract to Walmoughs was based on its technical capabilities, the facilities offered and the consistent quality standards achieved, said News International, which owns *The Sunday Times*.

Part of the magazine print will be sub-contracted in Europe until the new capacity at Walmoughs is available. This is expected in the early part of next year.

More profits

More O'Ferrall, the outdoor advertising company, yesterday announced a leap in pretax profits, from £2.8 million to £5.2 million in the year to December 31. The shares jumped 10p to 193p.

The figures are the first full-year results to include a 100 per cent contribution from the company's Adshel subsidiary, which sells advertising space on bus shelters in Britain and Ireland. Earnings per share almost doubled from 6.7p to 13p. A final dividend of 3.9p will be paid, making 5.2p for the year against 4p the previous year. Turnover in 1986 rose from £22.5 million to £29.9 million.

HCN recovers

Pretax profits of Home Counties Newspapers recovered strongly last year, to £1.68 million, from a loss of £461,000 in 1985. Earnings per share jumped from 8.9p to 44.1p and the total dividend to 10p. The board is proposing a one-for-one scrip issue.

Shell field brings N Sea commuter

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

The commuter is about to make an appearance in the North Sea. Travelling 30 minutes each way by helicopter, the offshore worker in the 1990s will be able to breakfast at home, have lunch on a concrete-and-steel factory high above the waves and be home in time for dinner.

In theory it will be possible also for a school-leaver to begin his engineering apprenticeship on the proposed Troll gas platform in the North Sea and attend his retirement party on the same platform without ever having worked on land.

Shell announced yesterday details of its proposal to develop the Troll gas field, the largest reservoir of gas yet to be found in the North Sea, at a cost of £2.5 billion.

Most of the money on development and the eventual £150 million a year running costs will be spent in Norway, but the gas produced will flow into mainland Europe and it is hoped that British Gas will eventually agree to terms to buy some of the output from the field.

Already many European utilities are seeing Troll gas as an alternative to supplies from Russia, which, although cheap, are often bound up with barter agreements.



Troll gas field

However, Shell, which will own only 8.3 per cent of the field — the rest is held by the Norwegian state oil company Statoil — has agreed to go ahead with the project because of the work it will provide for its engineers and technicians and because it is confident of trimming the costs of the operation to improve its potential profitability, at present around 10 per cent return on capital.

The concrete production platform, which will stand in the deepest part of the North Sea, 50 miles north-west of Bergen, will dwarf all previous North Sea structures and when complete will be one-and-a-half times the height of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The structure will be so heavy that Shell has calculated when gas is eventually drawn out of the seabed could gradually sink by as much as four metres and a half.

As part of its efforts to cut the running costs of the project, Shell has been looking at ways of keeping down the number of men and women — in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea women work alongside men at the well heads — who will live on the offshore platform.

Although the platform will be 20 storeys high, space will be needed for gas treatment plant and accommodation for personnel in the North Sea has proved extremely expensive.

Mr Willem Steenken, the Shell Norway director of exploration and production, said yesterday that every bed on a North Sea production platform costs £300,000 to provide at the design phase and then bills for food, laundry, insurance and safety measures mount up daily.

He added: "An offshore bed in the North Sea costs more per night than a bed in the most expensive hotel in the world. I am very keen to cut down on the number of beds we will need offshore."

Company car worth 'up to £27,000 rise'

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A company car used wholly for private travel will be worth a salary increase this year of between £3,000 and £27,000, according to research by *Income Data Services*.

The benefit of the car perk varies according to the size of the vehicle and the executive's marginal rate of income tax. When the car runs a third of its miles on business, the benefit would range from £2,000 to £18,000.

Scale charges on which employees are taxed on a car increased by 10 per cent this week and will rise by another 10 per cent next year. But IDS says that, even after increases in tax on company cars, the benefit remains highly tax efficient.

IDS figures show an executive provided with a two-litre Ford Sierra for private use and covering 12,000 miles a year would pay scale charges of £1,050 and its value to him, based on contract hire costs, would be £3,400. But the equivalent salary increase, assuming that the alternative would be to raise finance to buy his own car, would be £5,300 a year.

If the car is run for 20,000 miles a year, of which a third is for business, then the value in terms of extra pay is calculated at £6,000. Similarly, the value to a director of a company-pro-

vided £32,000 BMW 735 who has a marginal tax rate of 60 per cent, is £12,900 and the charges are estimated at £3,400. IDS says this is worth a £27,000 salary increase.

In this case, the value in salary terms drops to an increase of £19,000 when the car is driven on business for a third of 20,000 miles.

Because of the income tax advantages of company cars, the equivalent salary additions lie between 30 per cent and 220 per cent of the cost incurred by the employer. IDS points out the employer may reap part of this benefit as well as saving national insurance contributions.

Blue Arrow buy

By John Bell, City Editor

Mr Tony Berry's fast-growing employment agency group, Blue Arrow, is expanding into computer services.

In a combined acquisition, Blue Arrow is making an initial payment of £3 million for the DPSS and Tamar agencies which supply computer personnel on a contract basis. DPSS operates from London and Manchester and Tamar is based in Bristol.

Bid for Dale Electric

The 800 workers in Dale Electric were given 50 shares in the company last year to mark its golden jubilee. Now they have to decide whether to stand by the business or sell out after it faced a £13 million bid yesterday from the USM-bid Sunleigh Electronics. Dale shares shot up 31p to 95p on the news. Sunleigh, which sits on a 5.73 per cent stake in Dale, makes heat-induction and plastic-welding equipment.

Mr Christopher Coole, Dale's finance director, said the bid was "solicited and out of the blue" by the told shareholders to sit tight.

£8m cash call by Friendly Hotels group

Friendly Hotels — the new vehicle for Mr Henry Edwards, the veteran hotelier — is stepping up its expansion plans by asking shareholders for £8.5 million more cash.

The rights issue comes with news of pretax profits up by 334 per cent last year to £781,000. The dividend goes up from 0.7p to 1.2p a share.

During the year, Friendly Hotels bought five more hotels from the Virani Group, three serviced offices, and the Comaught Restaurants in London.

Mr Edwards said the new funds would help to trim borrowings and provide a platform to launch further acquisitions. The new shares will be placed at 520p, 30p below the present market price.

Hollis aims for £650m turnover

By John Bell
City Editor

Mr Robert Maxwell, a man who dreams improbable dreams, is pressing ahead with plans to transform Hollis Industries into a substantial science and technology-based industrial empire. According to yesterday's 1986 statement to shareholders, Hollis is on track for an eight-fold increase in turnover to £650 million during the next four years, with earnings per share to match.

On the basis of yesterday's figures, there is a long way to go. Turnover emerged at £85 million, up from £52.4 million in 1985. Profits rose from £770,000 to £3.61 million. But due to the rapidly changing composition of the group, those figures understate the current position.

Last year benefited from a full year's contribution from the Solicitors Law group acquired in 1985, and the inclusion for four months of a clutch of other companies injected from Mr Maxwell's Pergamon group. On the current composition of Hollis, annualized turnover is running at the rate of £750 million, the company said.

In the City, Hollis is regarded as something of an enigma. The origins of its new industrial role were hardly auspicious. Hollis itself was a struggling timber merchant and supplier of school desks threatened with closure when it was rescued in 1982 by Mr Maxwell's Pergamon interests.

Initially at least, it seemed destined to remain in the furniture business before Mr Maxwell had other ideas. Later, the former corporate hospital case has acted as saviour to other troubled companies.

It has staged a £4 million rescue of the Bath-based crane-maker Stothert and Pitt. Then it played a white knight role in acquiring Grosvenor Group, a troubled electronics and engineering concern. Hollis's highest-profile foray in the direction of Mr Maxwell's ambition was the unsuccessful attempt to win control of AE, the automotive engineering group, in a £280 million takeover battle with Turner & Newall.

Hollis is travelling hopefully, wherever it may arrive. Order books are at an encouraging level, group cash flow is strongly positive, and disposals of property and non-strategic activities should soon lead to the near-elimination of existing borrowings.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Standard: the quarrel is over assumptions

There are two possible reasons for taking issue with BP over its \$70-a-share offer for the 45 per cent of its unruly, US offshoot, Standard Oil. The first is, simply, that BP has got its sums wrong. The second is that because the issue is of such corporate significance, BP can be arm-twisted into stumping up a few dollars more. Standard Oil and its advisers, First Boston, seem to be inclined to the first. But putting a price on oil assets is more of an art than a science. Known facts are merely the starting point for applying a series of assumptions on variables such as the oil price and discount rate. It was for this reason that BP itself conducted its own valuation exercise under several differing sets of assumptions. The numbers churned out ranged from a low of \$27 per Standard share to a high of \$60.

Putting a price on Standard is essentially an exercise in the valuation of its interests in Prudhoe Bay, the Alaskan field which produces by itself a daily output that bears comparison with the whole of the North Sea. The computation is highly geared by high operating costs compared with most oilfields and stiff costs of transporting the oil produced from the frozen North to the US markets where it is consumed.

In BP's defence, it must be said that it could well have chosen a far more favourable moment to conduct the \$7.4 billion tender exercise. At the rock-bottom levels of around \$10 a barrel, any valuation of Standard shares would have fallen far short of the \$60 valuation, let alone the \$70 offer currently being made. But Britannic House took a longer view rather than one which would almost certainly have had political repercussions in the US, especially with HMG as a major shareholder.

It is not surprising that First Boston's analysts emerged with a higher figure. But it should be noted that what is at issue is the quality of assumptions, not facts. Moreover, BP's view is subject to the verdict of the marketplace.

As to the second point, supporters of the First Boston line may have a case. Whatever it says, BP badly needs to take its Standard holding up from the current 55 per cent to 80 per cent. At that level it will, give or take a delay or two, acquire the outstanding minority and so complete the restructuring process dear to its heart. The financial benefits of controlling Standard's cash flow are immense.

These inlets will pay for the purchase of the minority in two to four years, according to which arithmetic one favours. For the London end of the empire, such an outcome is highly preferable to the present position which leaves BP with Standard's dividend and a potential conflict of interests.

The resolution of this difficulty would

complete the transformation set in train by Sir Peter Walters when he took over in 1981. He inherited a dispirited organization badly in need of pruning. Most of this is done. A successful end to the Standard tender, plus emancipation from Government involvement later this year, would rank as the final element of the restructuring.

Own goal on AVCs

Nigel Lawson was supposed to enact Norman Fowler's pension reforms in today's Finance Bill. In one respect at least, he will be wrecking them. The Treasury confirmed yesterday that additional voluntary pension contributions made under future contracts will not be able to be commuted into cash on retirement.

The pension package was geared to encouraging more people to provide well for retirement. And one important aspect of this was to allow people in company pension schemes to make AVCs on a private basis. In practice, almost all people commute AVCs into cash on retirement.

This is in part because it can leave intact their mainstream occupational pension, which is more likely to be increased during payment. It is also because commutation was a way to overcome the perennial disadvantage of pension saving: that the proceeds cannot be passed on to children.

Rather than boosting AVCs, therefore, the Finance Bill will probably reduce them drastically. As the Legal & General's pensions expert Ron Spill points out: "Eliminating the cash option will reduce the attraction of AVCs. It knocks away an attractive option at the point of retirement."

Obviously this new rule arose because it might be difficult to monitor the rules for cashing AVCs if they were freestanding. In reality it reflects a long-standing Inland Revenue prejudice against tax-free cash commutation of pension rights, which it sees as illogical and which — more to the point — reduces income tax revenue. The change also introduces almost as scandalous an iniquity as that occasioned by the abolition of life assurance premium relief. In that case, those who took out policies after Budget day had no relief while those who had taken them out before enjoyed relief for the whole life of the policy, which might be 30 years or more. Hence the midnight scramble to start policies.

The same ruling will apply to AVCs, the deadline being midnight last night. This means that individual taxpayers could face a different tax regime for up to 40 years. Pension departments of sharp companies will have had their offices burning oil late into the night signing up AVC contracts.

The £5m Taylor-made float

If you are a City slicker enriched by countless golden hallos and handuffs, chances are you already own two or three Porsches, property in the country as well as Spain and a bulging Swiss bank account. What next? Well, how about buying the 80-year-old yacht *Kalixmar*, on board which Richard Burton gave Liz Taylor her famous 69.4 carat diamond? The 140-foot yacht, owned by the Taylors in the 1960s, is back on the market with an asking price of more than £5 million. She has just completed her winter refit, in Southampton and comes complete with her own satellite system, a mahogany panelled salon with room for 10 guests around the Chippendale dining table, and a handy collection of Coalport china. The yacht, which also boasts Peter de Savary as its immediate past owner, sets sail for the Med in two weeks. It is being offered for sale or charter by the Knightsbridge yacht chandler Castlemain, who refuses to identify the present owner. The mystery millionaire is a British businessman with a Cayman Islands company, who bought the yacht four years ago as a present for his 15-year-old son.

Racing record

Robin Herd, chairman and founder of the March racing car company, deserves an entry in the Guinness Book of Records for the £1.3 million salary cut he is taking as part of the flotation of his company. Last year Herd earned £1,363,000. But this year he is going to have to make do with

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

just £55,000. His increments will also be limited to 10 per cent a year for the next five years. The pain should however be dulled by the near £2 million that he will pocket from the sale of some of his March shares, and by the knowledge that he continues to hold 60 per cent of the company, worth another £8 million.

Filofacts

Before the word Filofax became synonymous with Yuppies, the pocket-sized filing systems were used by rural clergymen to keep parish

records. And even though they now range in price from £12.50 for a vinyl Filofax to £540 for one covered in crocodile skin, they are not being bought by Sloane Rangers alone. "They sell in Wigan just as well as in Sloane Street," said chairman David Collinson, ahead of the company's launch on the USM next Tuesday. They have even started selling in Japan and a book, published in Japanese, telling one how to use one's Filofax, has already sold 30,000 copies.

And they think they have problems. According to the Japanese Embassy in London, unemployment in Japan has now reached its highest level since records were kept, 28 years ago. The unemployment rate is now 2.9 per cent among men and 3 per cent among women.

Scotch myth

The warring Scottish clans are, it seems, uniting at last. The appointment of Ronnie Miller, respected chairman of the Pringle jumper manufacturer Dawson, to the board of Edinburgh-based food distributor Christian Salvesen, is more significant than it seems. "In the past people have always assumed that companies based in Scotland must

be inward looking," says 49-year-old Miller, "and that if you were outward looking you had to move away. That is no longer true. Both Salvesen and Dawson are international companies and we believe we can help each other by sharing our experiences." Within the next couple of months Dawson will be moving its head office from Kinross to the Scottish capital — just a five-minute walk away from Salvesen.

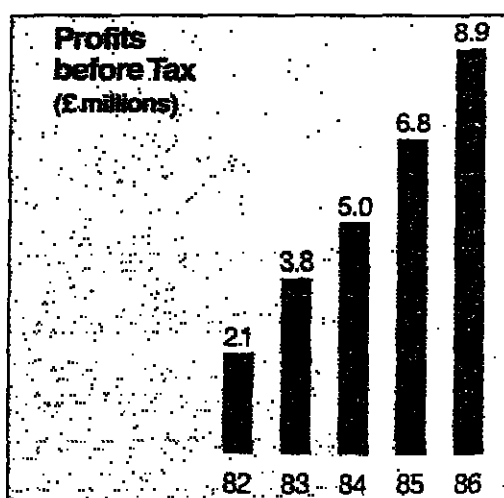
Inside story

If the standard of mailbags produced in HM Prisons suddenly improves, it will be the result of an involuntary injection of top management from the packaging industry. The prospectus of corrugated cardboard manufacturer Cundell Group, just published, reveals that HM Customs and Excise is investigating breaches of anti-dumping laws over kraft liner, a raw material of cardboard boxes. It is, of course, all the fault of the EEC, and particularly the French, who object to the prices being charged by American and Scandinavian rivals. They obtained an intervention price ruling, which was ignored by everybody. Frantic lobbying is going on to sort out the situation, but the possibility of jug, albeit remote, faces every executive in the packaging industry who was involved. According to Cundell's advisers, that means — technically — just about everybody who is anybody in the business.

Carol Leonard

Royal Trust Bank

A year of significant achievement with profits up 30% in 1986



- 30% increase in capital base to £73.4 million
- 44% increase in total assets and loans to £1.2 billion
- 40% increase in deposits to £878 million

Copies of the 1986 Annual Report of Royal Trust Bank can be obtained from the Company Secretary at the London address below.

ROYAL TRUST
Royal Trust Bank

Royal Trust Bank
Royal Trust House
42-44 Cannon Street
London EC4A 3DF
Tel: 01-255 6344

Royal Trust Bank
Comptons Union House
2-16 Abchurch Lane
London EC4N 3UR
Tel: 01-532 0223

Royal Trust Bank
Royal Trust House
72 Tavistock Street
London WC2E 7NA
Tel: 01-733 2322

The year was one of significant achievement for this Bank with continued improvement in operating results as well as in business development activities that strengthened the foundations for future growth.

Nigel Robson, in his report as Chairman of Royal Trust Bank for 1986.

Royal Trust Bank is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Royal Trust, Canada's largest trust company with total assets worldwide under administration exceeding £34 billion and a double A credit rating comparable with the Canadian chartered banks.

Royal Trust Bank in London, Manchester and Ipswich provides a wide range of banking and financial services to corporations and private clients including commercial lending, treasury services, corporate trust and global custody, commercial and residential mortgages, personal financial services, private banking, tax and insurance advice.

Klark-Teknik profit up

Klark-Teknik, the sound equipment manufacturer, increased profits from £451,000 to £552,000 in the six months to January 31, and is lifting the interim dividend from 0.4p to 0.5p. Turnover rose to £2.08 million from £1.25 million, with earnings per share up to 2.4p from 1.8p.

Mr Philip Clarke, the chairman, predicts further growth in the second half. The group is stepping up research and development expenditure and expects new products to make a significant contribution to turnover and profits in the next 12 to 18 months.

Meanwhile, the newly-acquired Dearden Davies offshoot has opened up a market in the US and expects steady growth.

Marlborough

Marlborough Technical Management, the chemical specialist, comfortably topped its flotation profit forecast of £3.82 million for 1986, to make £4.21 million pretax.

That compares with £1.73 million for 1985, on turnover

up from £19.27 million to £33.99 million. Earnings per share are 10.6p against 3.7p with a final dividend of 0.7p.

Marlborough shares have doubled since they were offered at 110p last September and they took yesterday's announcement of the retirement of Mr Brian Wiggins, chairman and co-founder, in their stride. Mr Wiggins will remain non-executive chairman after June 30, until full retirement in January 1989.

Ash & Lacy

A small improvement in profits where none was expected has lifted the share price at Ash & Lacy, the Midlands engineering company, but there is no sign of the acquisitions many people expect.

Last October Mr Fane Vernon, the chairman, told shareholders not to expect any increase in profits in 1986, but yesterday he unveiled a pretax total of £3.26 million against £3.01 million, despite a downturn in the turnover from £34.9 million to £33.3

million. The final dividend was raised to 13p, making 24p for the year against 20.25p.

The company has plenty of cash for redevelopment and re-investment and takeover speculation continues.

Morceau Holdings

In contrast to the optimism at Morceau Holdings' annual meeting in February, the specialist fire protection group says results for the six months ended March will show a loss, and no interim dividend will be paid.

Since February, the group has lost two major contracts for the petrochemical and offshore business.

A decision on any final dividend will be taken once full-year results are to hand. The group paid an interim dividend of 1.5p in 1986 and a final of 2.5p a share. In the year ended September, pretax profits fell from £3.07 million to £1.95 million.

The shares were immediately marked down yesterday from 120p to 80p, though they improved to 100p.

Adwest's profits stagnate

By Ray Heath

Profits of the Adwest automotive, engineering, defence and property group stagnated in the first six months of the current year as the company continued its restructuring.

The chairman, Mr Frank Waller, admitted that he was disappointed with pretax profits of £3.234 million, against £3.14 million from turnover which was boosted by acquisitions from £39.1 million to £48.1 million.

The company was hit by continuing losses at the Borman tractor and truck components plant.

This has been sold and the sale should produce an extraordinary credit of £750,000 in the second half.

Although the interim dividend is being raised from 1.7p to 1.8p, and directors believe that the benefits of the reconstruction will show through soon, the shares fell 9p to 265p on the results.

COMPANY NEWS

● **BRUNNING GROUP:** The company has acquired TGA, a Bradford, Yorkshire, designer and manufacturer of exhibition and conference stands for £330,000 via 177,666 new ordinary shares. There are also provisions for a further £300,000 of shares depending on profits in the next three years.

● **RATNERS (JEWELLERS):** The group has completed the sale and leaseback of a portfolio of nine freehold properties for £9.1 million.

● **ELYS (WIMBLEDON):** For the year to January 31 a dividend of 9.5p (8.5p) will be paid, making 10.5p (9.5p). Figures in £000s: Turnover (net) 7,891 (6,734), pretax profit 473 (500), tax 147 (190), Earnings per share 27.2p (23.3p).

● **MAGNOLIA GROUP (MOULDINGS):** Total dividend for 1986 raised to 4p (3.35p). With figures in £000s: Turnover 15,726 (14,295), Pretax profit 1,054 (1,033).

● **SEDGWICK GROUP:** Sedgwick Tomenson, a Canadian subsidiary, has bought BSI Incorp for a maximum Can\$8 million (£3.78 million), satisfied by Sedgwick ordinary shares.

● **H. YOUNG HOLDINGS:** Half-year to January 31. Interim dividend 1.3p (1.2p). With figures in £000s: Turnover 8,182 (6,238), Pretax profit 592 (590).

Earnings per share - weighted average - 6.38p (6.80p). The board sees an excellent year ahead.

● **ASPEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Total dividend for 1986 3.7p (2.8p). With figures in £000s: Turnover 16,751 (8,092), Pretax profit 2,112 (1,106).

Earnings per share 16.2p (9.8p). The board reports that 1987 has started well with both turnover and profits in the first quarter significantly ahead of last year.

● **MURRAY ELECTRONICS:** No dividend for the six months to January 31 (same). With figures in £000s: Pretax revenue 346 (288), Earnings per share 0.83p (0.59p).

● **BAILLIE GIFFORD TECHNOLOGY:** Dividend 0.2p (1.5p) for the year to February 28. With figures in £000s: Pretax revenue 38 (381), Earnings per share 0.23p (2.05p).

● **PEEK HOLDINGS:** Results for 1986. With figures in £000s: Pretax profit 51 (597 loss), Earnings per share 0.17p (4.99p loss).

● **VALIN POLLEN INTERNATIONAL:** The company is establishing a new subsidiary, Valin Pollen Direct Communications.

● **HAZLEWOOD FOODS:** The company has acquired Associated Biscuits for DM2.25 million (£768,000) in cash.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings Last Dealings Last Declaration For Settlement
Mar 30 Apr 11 Jul 9
Call options were taken out on 7/4/87 Newman Inds., Premier, Pacific Sales, Aran Energy, Wharfedale, Martin Ford, Stormguard, Fobell, Windham, Sound Division, Nat. West., Regent, GSC, Norfolk Cap., Wilman, Phoenix Properties, Hyman, North Kalsburg, Menz, United Guaranty, Amos, Wilson, Amsted, Blacks Leisure, Charterhall, Fisons, Transworld, British Oil, Paraflex, St. Modwen Properties, Israel Jack, Puss, Lyle Ship, Welches, North Kalsburg Mines, Dineco.
Put: Lyle Ship, Welches, North Kalsburg Mines, Dineco.
Put & Call: Blacks Leisure, Property Trust, Blackwood Hodge.

London traded options are held out for space reasons

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Alfred-Lyons	660	English China	533	Rank Ctg	183
Amrad	2,700	Reuro	377	Rank Hovs	888
Anglo	2,300	Gen Account	525	Regland	823
ASDA-MFI	1,700	GEC	1,200	Reed Int	1,100
Ass Br Foods	360	Globe IT	937	Reidors	264
BET	1,500	Granada	917	RMC Group	1,800
BTR	680	Grand Met	978	RSC	125
BAT	107	GUS A	816	Royce & Scot	614
Barclays	570	GPE	950	Royce Int	214
Bass	2,700	GKN	268	Saatchi	1,300
Beecham	3,200	Gumstess	5,000	Sandbrook Int	6,700
Blue Circle	372	Hanson	500	Sears	783
BOC	6,600	Hawker Siddeley	1,400	Sedgwick Gp	2,300
Boots	382	Hesschem	1,100	Shell	1,200
BPG Ind	3,800	Imp Chem Ind	356	Sin & Nephew	486
BRCC	1,600	Imp Cont Gas	3,000	Storehouse	1,900
Br Aerospace	6,700	Imperial	3,400	Sun Alliance	365
Br Airways	784	Land Sec	587	Tarmac	2,200
Br Gas	37,000	Legal & Gen	500	Tarmac	1,000
Br Telecom	1,400	Lloyds	1,100	Thom EMI	1,300
Britol	6,400	Lonrho	1,300	Trataghar House	513
Bund	1,000	Marico & Spencer	754	Trataghar Fom	1,300
Burton	1,500	Mediant	159	Unilever	160
Cable & Wireless	1,000	Nat West	395	Unit Discs	215
Cadbury Schwepp	333	P & O Dtd	1,000	Whitbread A	1,000
Costa Vytale	2,300	Petroleum Bros	165	Woodward	307
Corn Union	620	Plessey	5,600		
Corn Golestons	538	Prudential	3,500		
Courtaulds	1,500	Racal Elect	1,300		
Dee Corp	2,700				
Deans Gp	882				

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
day's range	close		
April 7	April 7		
N York 1.6180-1.6205	1.6180	0.52-0.49p	1.31-1.27p
London 2.1095-2.1204	2.1095	0.57-0.47p	1.38-1.27p
Amsterdam 3.2535-3.2646	3.2535	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Brussels 61.04-61.22	61.04	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Copenhagen 11.117-11.154	11.117	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
D-101 1.1018-1.1088	1.1018	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Frankfurt 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Geneva 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
London 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Madrid 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Manila 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Mexico 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Paris 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Porto 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Stockholm 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Tokyo 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p
Zurich 2.5612-2.5672	2.5612	1.1-1.0p	2.5-2.4p

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 72.3 (day's range 72.2-72.3).

OTHER STERLING RATES	DOLLAR SPOT RATES
Argentina austral 2.484-2.4957	Ireland 1.4650-1.4670
Australia dollar 2.2831-2.2855	Singapore 2.1367-2.1377
Bahrain ddr 0.6380-0.6420	Sri Lanka 2.4842-2.4860
Brazil cruzeiro 36.4926-36.6914	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Cyprus pound 0.7879-0.7770	Sweden 3.9607-3.9707
Denmark 7.1729-7.2130	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Greece drachma 215.0-217.0	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Hong Kong dollar 12.6001-12.6348	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
India rupee 20.65-20.85	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Kuwait ddr 0.4400-0.4440	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Malaysia dollar 4.0325-4.0425	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Mexico peso 16.30-16.50	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
New Zealand dollar 2.8328-2.8388	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Saudi Arabia riyal 6.0550-6.0550	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Singapore dollar 3.4583-3.4621	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
S Africa rand (fin) 4.9545-5.0333	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
S Africa rand (com) 3.2956-3.2984	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
U A E dirham 5.5380-5.5700	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397
Yugoslavia Bank	Switzerland 1.0395-1.0397

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOPEX and Etd.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %	EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %
Cleaning Banks 10	Dollar call 6 1/2-5 1/2
France House 10 1/2	7 days 6 1/2-5 1/2
Discount Market Loans %	1 month 6 1/2-5 1/2
Overnight High 10 1/2 Low 10	3 months 6 1/2-5 1/2
Week fixed 10	6 months 6 1/2-5 1/2
Treasury Bills (Discount %)	1 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
Buying 2 month 9 1/2	2 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
Selling 3 month 9 1/2	3 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)	4 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
1 month 9 1/2-9 3/4	5 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
3 month 9 1/2-9 3/4	6 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
6 month 9 1/2-9 3/4	7 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
Trade Bills (Discount %)	8 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
1 month 10 1/2	9 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
3 month 10 1/2	10 year 6 1/2-5 1/2
6 month 10 1/2	
Interbank %	
Overnight open 10 1/2 close 11	
1 week 10 1/2-9 3/4	
1 month 10 1/2-9 3/4	
3 month 9 3/4-9 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2-9 1/4	
12 month 9 1/4-9 1/2	
Local Authority Deposits %	
2 days 8 1/2	
1 month 8 1/2	
3 month 8 1/2	
6 month 8 1/2	
12 month 8 1/2	
Local Authority Bonds %	
1 month 10 1/2-9 3/4	
3 month 9 3/4-9 1/2	
6 month 9 1/2-9 1/4	
12 month 9 1/4-9 1/2	
Dollar CDs %	
1 month 6.40-6.35	
3 month 6.40-6.35	
6 month 6.40-6.35	
12 month 6.40-6.35	

BULLION

Gold \$419.25-419.75	Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance
London (per oz) ex vat	Scheme II Averaged reference rate for
\$ 424.00-427.00 (\$262.00-264.00)	interest period February 26, 1987 to
Sovereigns (new, ex vat)	March 31, 1987 inclusive: 10.053 per
\$ 100.55-101.50 (\$22.00-22.75)	cent.
Platinum	
\$ 568.25 (\$349.20)	
Silver	
\$ 6.6900-6.6900 (\$4.1150-4.1350)	

ECGD

1986	Price	Offer	Change
High	Low	Company	
450	180	Abelscot Group	380 410 +40
50	10	Aberdeen Am Petrol	29 35 +6
120	110	Allied Insurance	107 117 +10
60	35	Catalyst Commercial	56 60 +4
68	24	Corton Beach	62 67 +5
190	121	Edenspring Inv	180 190 +10
63	10	Edinburgh Oil related	56 59 +3
41	8	Do. Warrants	27 29 +2
29	17	Publishing Holdings	26 28 +2
57 1/2	45	Theme Holdings	56 59 +3
133	114 1/2	Unit Group	112 117 +5

WALL STREET

Apr 6	Apr 3	Apr 6	Apr 3	Apr 6	Apr 3
AMR Cp	55 1/2	54	Firestone	37 1/2	37 1/2
ASA	81 1/2	82	Fit Chicago	28 1/2	29 1/2
Aetna Life	64 1/2	64 1/2	Fit Int Brq	28 1/2	29 1/2
Allied Signal	48 1/2	48 1/2	Fit Pam C	10 1/2	10 1/2
Adis Chem	2 1/2	2 1/2	Fit Wadwa	42 1/2	41 1/2
Alcoa	45 1/2	44 1/2	Ford Motor	90 1/2	87 1/2
Amex Inc	19 1/2	19 1/2	GAF Cp	51 1/2	53 1/2
AMR Hess	34 1/2	34 1/2	GTE Int	41 1/2	41 1/2
Am Brands	49 1/2	48 1/2	Gen Cp	118 1/2	115 1/2
Am Can	49 1/2	48 1/2	Gen Dynam	72 1/2	71 1/2
Am Cent	82 1/2	82 1/2	Gen Elect	111 1/2	108 1/2
Am Efr Per	29 1/2	29 1/2	Gen Inst	28 1/2	28 1/2
Amex	74 1/2	74 1/2	Gen Mills	91 1/2	91 1/2
Am Home	90 1/2	89 1/2	Gen Motors	91 1/2	79 1/2
Am Motors	4 1/2	4 1/2	Gen Pub Ut	84 1/2	84 1/2
Am Stand	48 1/2	48 1/2	Gen Sec	5 1/2	5 1/2
Am Telph	24 1/2	24 1/2	Georgia Pac	51 1/2	50 1/2
Amoco Oil	85 1/2	85 1/2	Gilest	80 1/2	81 1/2
Amoco Steel	10 1/2	10 1/2	Goodrich	78 1/2	78 1/2
Asarco Inc	23 1/2	23 1/2	Goodyear	59 1/2	58 1/2
Ashtad Ind	67 1/2	67 1/2	Gould Inc	17 1/2	17 1/2
Avon Prod	31 1/2	31 1/2	Grt Air Pac	35 1/2	34 1/2
Bk Boston	31 1/2	31 1/2	Graco	66 1/2	66 1/2
Bank NY	42 1/2	43 1/2	Grain	30 1/2	30 1/2
Bankamer	11 1/2	11 1/2	Gulf & West	78 1/2	78 1/2
Barr Nat NY	45 1/2	45 1/2	Hercules	58 1/2	57 1/2
Beth Steel	11 1/2	11 1/2	Hewlett Ph	58 1/2	57 1/2
Biochem	51 1/2	51 1/2	Honeywell	73 1/2	73 1/2
Boise CASC	85 1/2	84 1/2	IC Ind	34 1/2	33 1/2
Borden	58 1/2	58 1/2	ICI Cp	62 1/2	62 1/2
Borg Warr	48 1/2	48 1/2	INCO	16 1/2	16 1/2
Bristol Mer	106 1/2	106 1/2	Imperial	80 1/2	80 1/2

CREATIVE & MEDIA COMMUNIQUE

Marketing Support Manager

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West London

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As the head of a small, highly creative team you'll be determining the written communications strategy of an international company that leads the world in its chosen IT field. That will demand the experience and stature to work closely with senior technical and commercial staff, strong organisational ability and expertise that spans copywriting, production and ideally High Technology.

The role extends way above the line so you'll also need experience of agency control and media planning.

Make no mistake, the pressure will be on and it will be your own drive and purpose that will gain the necessary results. That's why the role commands a salary in the region of £20K and with it a quality company car.

If you can live up to the most demanding expectations I'd like to tell you more. Call me, Graham Dunning, on (0892) 552552 or send a brief CV to me at Macmillan Davies, Salisbury House, Blacocote, Hertford, Herts. SG14 1PU. Making your mark on paper is the first stage to making your mark in person.

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Gold tops to the rescue

Magnus Linklater, the editor of the *London Daily News*, was already "in with the publisher" when I rang him at 9.15am on Monday to ask how the great battle with the *Evening Standard* was going.

He emerged at lunchtime. What, I asked, are the things that have most surprised you since your launch on February 24? "Pretty well everything," was his reply. The latest post-Wapping newspaper publishing venture has indeed systematically broken every rule of the newspaper publishing book. The result will either be a world-breaking success or a commercial disaster.

Let us begin at the beginning. In the early summer of 1986 it was announced that a new London evening newspaper would be published that autumn. An editor was designated (Linklater) and an editorial consultant (Charles Wintour) but nothing else — no management, no title, no "concept".

What emerged on February 24 this year was an editorial miracle of cohesion and excellence. From its front page to its horoscope, from its gossip column to its listings, it is a newspaper of quality. The project was conceived as an evening paper, and the first surprise has been that the first "gold top" edition — for central London breakfast tables — is selling as well as all the other four editions together. This achievement may have rescued the paper. If the *LDN* were now selling only 150,000 copies a day, even the personal commitment of Robert Maxwell — a man, it is said, who does not "understand newspapers" — would not rescue the venture. No publisher underestimates a circulation figure. Even allowing for this, however, the evidence this year seems to contradict the First Law of Evening Newspapers — that the market has been declining for decades.

Figures are confused by the

period when the *LDN's* price was halved to 10p (which no one "understands" would have done) but before the *Evening Standard* was woken from its monopoly slumber. It was selling somewhere below 500,000 copies a day. Rejuvenated by competition, it has put on at least 10 per cent. If the *LDN* is selling around 300,000 copies a day (and you add in whatever the next-to-zero-cost *Evening News* is selling), the total evening paper market in London has gone back to within spitting distance of one million copies a day.

The *LDN* has also been flying in the face of other received wisdom. All research has showed that there was no significant evening readership "up market" of the *Standard*. London evening newspapers have not principally been bought by city workers commuting home, but overwhelmingly by people (almost half women) in the suburbs to read at home.

Unless this pattern changes hugely, I doubt whether the *LDN* will hold its share of the present market. People who buy a paper to read in the second half of the day usually have a short attention span, for reasons of children, exhaustion, or television.

Even if the *LDN* can win the truly Mafia-style battles to get proper London afternoon and early evening distribution, I doubt whether there is room for much more sale "up market" from a *Standard* that has improved out of all recognition in belated response to the new competition. In which case Magnus Linklater could find himself editing, unplanned, an entirely new animal — a serious London-based morning newspaper. His editorial team are far too good for the 20 minutes or so we mere readers are prepared to give them after tea.

Hugh Stephenson is Professor of Journalism at City University

Jonathan Arnold examines the tarnished image behind tonight's advertising awards

Tonight, 1,800 advertising agency men and women will gather at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London for the annual Designers and Art Directors Association awards dinner. It will be the usual night of excess: this is, after all, the daddy of all the advertising awards in this country — and tonight is the D&A's silver jubilee.

So as the port slips down and the Oscar-like ceremony proceeds, one can expect the usual quips about agency favouritism and biased judging to come thick and fast. It has been known for winners to be booed; for broad rolls to fly.

Two weeks ago, the same number gathered at the same venue for the press advertising awards organized by the trade paper *Campaign*. Next Monday they will all be there again for the British Television Advertising Awards (BTAA). Winning these awards can play a vital part in an agency's efforts to win new business.

Small wonder, then, that agencies throw everything into the fight — and occasionally come to grief. Even Saatchi and Saatchi had some



Maintaining standards: Edward Booth-Clibborn, part-time D&A chairman, and two former prize-winning advertisements

explaining to do this year when the BTAA found that a commercial for the RSPCA it submitted was ineligible — it had never been broadcast.

The scale and success of Saatchi's operation — the agency wins countless awards each year — perhaps make such lapses inevitable. Saatchi has also had a run-in with the *Campaign* press awards, which found an ad that was "ineligible" for inclusion. It was scheduled to appear but was withdrawn by the client at the last moment — a problem

all agencies have to contend with.

Jeremy Sinclair, the chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi Compton International, explained: "In the recent round of awards we submitted over 1,000 separate items. If a couple of these were incorrectly entered, then we will be thoroughly overhauling our awards procedures."

But Saatchi is by no means alone in such mistakes — and other agencies, it seems, actually cheat. Peter Bigg, administrator of the BTAA,

says that this year 22 commercials were entered for the wrong category. Agencies also send in commercials which are a different cut from the one the public saw; some of them are even re-edited to improve the quality.

"We have always insisted that the film that is entered for our awards is the same film that has been shown on TV or in the cinema," Bigg says. "In the past we have always weeded out things that are ineligible before they have got to a contentious stage. But



LABOUR ISN'T WORKING.

now things have come to a head."

There is still general agreement that the right work wins the awards; but the danger is that ineligible work could slip through the safety net and win unfairly. After all, no adman can have seen every commercial that has run.

That problem is compounded in the case of tonight's awards by the workload placed on the amiable shoulders of Edward Booth-Clibborn, the D&A's part-time chairman. He has had to

look after the call for entries, the formation of the eight-man executive committee and each year, the subsequent selection of the juries, the educational programme, the annual, and so on.

Among those who believe that Booth-Clibborn needs the help of a full-time administrator is Tim Delaney, managing director of the Leagas Delaney advertising agency. "While it is the most prestigious of all the awards, it is also considered the most shambolic," he says. "D&A should take a much more commercially relevant role... it could act as a register for client companies looking for the best in British advertising and design."

Booth-Clibborn says that when attempts were made to "get rid of me", the executive committee "couldn't agree among themselves how to replace me or with whom". And his supporters suggest that without him, D&A would have died years ago.

The controversy over the submission of commercials and the organization of the D&A reflects the desire of those in advertising and allied trades to improve their image. Their industry association could play a vital role. Booth-Clibborn, for example, wants to see an advertising equivalent to the Design Centre.

But as the prizes are handed out tonight, the winners might ask themselves: how many people outside advertising have heard of the D&A?

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Intelligent people spending time tripping each other up

Ariel, the BBC staff newspaper, is not known for rocking the boat. But last week it broke with precedent by carrying a full-page article criticizing the BBC — and itself. The author was Janet Morgan, Oxford historian, editor of Richard Crossman's diaries, biographer of Agatha Christie and the intellectual engine behind the Corporation's new policy of *glasnost*, or openness.

Until last autumn, Miss Morgan was a special adviser to Alasdair Milne, the former director-general of the BBC. When she left to take a job at Granada Television, shortly before Milne was himself sent to Siberia, few at the top of the Corporation seemed to mourn her passing. But in the last two months,

Morgan has been rehabilitated. In February, she was a guest of honour when the BBC Governors and Board of Management, headed by the new director-general, Michael Checkland, met for a weekend strategy session at a country house hotel in Warwickshire.

Publication in *Ariel* of her radical advice has now given it the status of a seminal document in BBC reconstruction. Her main points:

● The BBC is an organization "cramped with energetic, conscientious, intelligent people... who spend a vast amount of time running around in circles tripping each other up".
● "People spend hours... endlessly drafting Handbooks and Annual Reports to Parliament (which MPs are too busy to read)."

● Constant meetings are held, mainly to discuss the minutes of previous meetings.

● There is no time to think: "Bright people are swamped by managing paper and timetables. New ideas are suffocated. Decisions are often simply reactions, rationalized afterwards. Lively people turn into grey faces."

● "There exists some notion of 'bad' performance and 'good' performance but — as at the worst sort of boarding school — no one quite knows what they are."

She concludes by calling for clear criteria for the evaluation of success. She challenges the "referral upwards" system of management in which difficult decisions are always passed to superiors. Furthermore, senior managers must

cease to be "a secretive, paranoid" group: "Try walking about, answering your own telephone, talking the No Entry signs off the doors — you might even try leaving them ajar."

Most important, Morgan says, the BBC needs better communications, both internally and with the world outside.

So far, there seems to be every indication that her suggestions are being implemented. Checkland has cut the number of management meetings in half and scrapped the upward referral system. Hussey occasionally answers his own telephone. And, it is said, there is more to come. Stay tuned.

Jonathan Miller

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GKN Chp

TV heirs apparent

Two key television posts are up for grabs.
Bryan Appleyard looks at the nail-biting decisions facing the most likely applicants

Brian Tessler, head of London Weekend Television, returned from holiday in Israel on Monday. Next Monday, over at Channel 4, a new management structure swings into action in the wake of a furious letter to the trade press from Jeremy Isaacs, the chief executive, denying the usual reports of backstabbing and boardroom splits.

In the fraught, overheated world of television politics nothing happens in isolation and, sure enough, these events are connected and of profound significance to its fraught, overheated inhabitants. For Tessler has beneath him the highly desirable job of Director of Programmes at LWT — the current occupant, John Birt, departs to become Deputy Director General of the BBC in the near future. And at Channel 4 the new structure is said to be a purely interim arrangement until a successor to Isaacs is appointed. He leaves to run the Royal Opera House next year.

The timing of the two vacancies could not be more awkward. Does, for example, the average aspiring TV boss go for the Birt job now and effectively scupper his chances for the task of running Channel 4? Or does he hold off and go for the big one next year?

Among the many things revealed by the recent fight for the DG's job at the BBC was the sheer number of high-profile types jostling each other at or near the top in television. It also revealed the degree to which all such jobs are immensely uncertain, given the pressure for changes in the whole structure of broadcasting.

In the event, the BBC governors played safe. The candidate favoured by the chairman, Marmaduke Hussey, was David Dimbleby, who seems to have been undermined by a quite alarming number of threatened resignations if he was appointed. Paul Fox, head of

Yorkshire Television, is understood to have been offered the job for two years as a stop-gap candidate, but to have turned it down on the basis that the BBC needed long-term leadership. So they alighted on Checkland; Birt arrived later to provide the fireworks.

This leaves a lot of upwardly-mobile disappointment in the executive suites. The problem is that the Channel 4 job carries with it almost the same number of uncertainties as the BBC's.

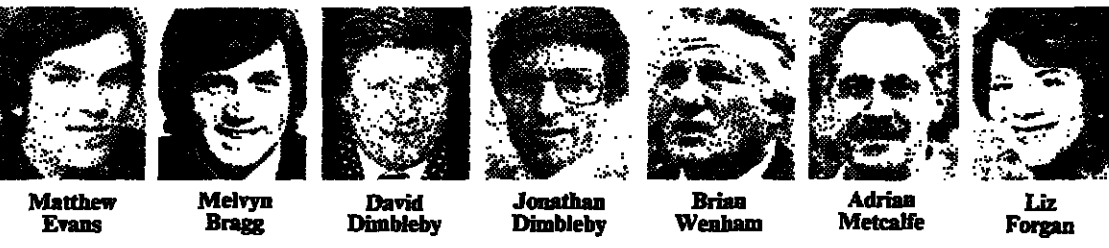
First there is the issue of C4's independence. Internally, this seems to have been settled for the time being. The new chairman, Richard Attenborough, agrees with Isaacs that the channel should continue to be run by the commercial companies. His predecessor, Edmund Dell, had argued that it should break free.

Two conflicting reports have been published on whether this was, in fact, feasible. Isaacs himself had realized that independence would mean subjecting his channel to a ratings war — and it is precisely its protection from that war by the companies which has led to his spectacular success *à l'estime*.

But Isaacs's replacement will come into power to be confronted with the question of what system of commercial television will be in operation. The IBA has now decided to extend the current franchises for three years until 1992, pending — a decision on precisely how commercial television contracts will be awarded. There is pressure both to get rid of the franchise system and to move some way towards the radical reforms of broadcasting proposed by the Peacock Committee last year. In this climate, C4's position is as uncertain as anybody else's. The question is, therefore, what kind of person would be needed to replace Isaacs? Should he be a politician able to deal with the real world



Screen struck: as John Birt (left) and Jeremy Isaacs bow out, TV's executive performers (below) wait in the wings



outside television, or should he be another media in-fighter with a creative background, like Isaacs?

At this stage the likely runners are predictable enough, but no less intriguing for that. There is, for example, the prospect of a right-wing David Dimbleby up against a left-wing Jonathan. There is Tony Smith of the British Film Institute, whose contract ends at just about the same time as Isaacs' and whose work has brought him close to Attenborough. There is the perennial Brian Wenham — currently being called The Nearly Man or "When-am-I?" Melvyn Bragg may go for Channel 4 on the basis that running an arts programme on commercial television for over a decade is quite long enough. And, from outside, there is the chairman of Faber & Faber, Matthew Evans, who is also chairman of the Royal Court Theatre.

Watching all this will be Paul Fox, who has also written a letter this

week to the trade press, denying that he had led an anti-Liz Forgan faction during the Channel 4 changes. Forgan (head of news and current affairs) is among the leading lights of the committee of five which now runs C4 under Isaacs. The others are Mike Bolland (entertainment and arts), David Rose (fiction), Naomi Sargent (education), and Adrian Metcalfe (senior commissioning editor), all of whom would like to either have a say or be in the running when it comes to appointing a successor.

Meanwhile, Paul Bonner, the former Controller of Programmes, will be watching from his new job at the Independent Television Companies Association. And, of course, a leading contender is Justin Dukes, managing director of Channel Four.

Fox is generally credited with

being a king-making figure when any job in television comes up. He is also usually described as possessing an IQ of quite staggering proportions — this seems to be quite a common attribute in television and has been routinely applied in the past to Wenham, Birt and Peter Jay. Aged 62 this year, Fox looks like ageing into a Rab Butler figure: the best DG/Chief Executive we never had. He is also irrevocably of the old guard and, these days, that is rapidly becoming the worst possible item on a CV.

Isaacs has led C4 through five years which began with near disaster and ended with spectacular success. Its ratings are decent, it provides programmes that simply could not be found elsewhere and it has played a major part in putting the British film industry back to work. The next five years may not be quite so much fun.

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BYLINES

War of the tea cups

Unhappy television advertisers have even more reason to be angry today at the increasing cost of reaching ITV's diminishing afternoon audiences. Adult ratings have dropped by 9 per cent this year, but the ITV companies have claimed that the falling figures do not represent mass defection by housewives to the BBC's new daytime schedule; they say they are the result of changes in research panels, aimed at identifying more clearly the habits of younger and less frequent, up-market viewers.

But the Broadcasters' Audience Research Board, which publishes the ratings, yesterday received a report from AGR, the company that carries out the research, and BARB's director, Nigel Newson-Smith, says: "The figures show that the relatively poor performance of ITV has nothing to do with research effects."

Viewing patterns of panel members, monitored at the beginning of last year, have been compared with those of the new members (20 per cent of the total). They show the same trend — "more people are watching more BBC and less ITV," as Newson-Smith says. Meanwhile, advertisers are vowing with their wallets, as the sharp fall in April daytime bookings shows, and the ITV companies are rushing to assemble a new, afternoon schedule by June, two months ahead of plan.

Long service

Graeme McDonald, controller of BBC2, who is leaving the corporation at the end of the year, is talking to Anglia Television about setting up a film subsidiary there. Roger Laughton, the man who launched the BBC's cheap but cheerful daytime service, and who said he would only do the job for a year, is likely to succeed him.

Just friends

Peter Croome, chief executive of ad agency Doyle Dane Bernbach's London office, is pouring cold water on rumours that an involuntary merger with Reeves Robertshaw Needham (expected since DBB merged with Needham Harper in the US last May) is imminent. Croome said this week: "The agencies will remain separate for the time being."

Nudge, nudge...

Channel 4 looks set to lose its pink triangle, the infamous Special Discretion Required symbol that winks away in the corner of late-night movies deemed morally disturbing. Since the symbol has merely attracted unusually large audiences to European art house movies, Jeremy Isaacs is said to prefer dropping it, thus placating outraged film purists.

Flatter dish

The traditional cumbersome bowl-shaped dish for receiving direct broadcast satellite TV signals may be rendered obsolete by the latest antenna from Japan. Less than two feet square, this light, flat antenna is more easily installed on roofs and walls. The manufacturers, Matsushita and Comsat, will distribute the flat "dish" in West Germany and France later this year, when the first European DBS services are due to start.

Mirror star

Robert Maxwell is angry about recent stories that Anne Robinson, *Daily Mirror* columnist and television presenter, is to take over as editor of the *Sunday Mirror*. Ms Robinson is actually keen to become a TV star, while the delicate task facing Maxwell is how to arrange for MGN's editor-in-chief, Mike Molloy, to muscle in on editorial decision-making at the fiercely independent *London Daily News*.

Briefing...

John MacKenzie, *Fourth Protocol* director, has signed with David Puttnam to make two movies for Columbia — after the success of Barry Norman's *The Hollywood Years*, the BBC is working on *The Comedy Great*... Penguin is planning a trendy paperback imprint for novels next spring, aimed at youths.

David Housham

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Greater Glasgow Health Board,
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The list consists primarily of Christian books, so a strong sympathy with the subject matter is essential. Please write with full C.V. and details of current salary to:
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Tel: (0664) 501501

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The College of Law needs an experienced editor to take responsibility for the editing, production and sale of the College of Law's expanding range of publications. The post, which will be based in Guildford, is a new one and will be very attractive to those who have done editorial work in law publishing and want to broaden their horizons.

The successful applicant will have a law degree or similar qualification, and experience of working in publishing. The salary will depend on age and experience. But the successful applicant is likely to command a salary in the region of £12,500 with free BUPA cover.

If you are interested in this position, please send a CV including your current salary and daytime telephone number to:

Keith Harding,
The College of Law,
Stratford Manor,
St Catherine's,
Guildford,
Surrey GU3 1HA

SENIOR BUSINESS JOURNALIST

Money magazine, the leading monthly consumer personal finance journal, has just been acquired by major Australian media group John Fairfax and Sons. As part of the exciting new plans to develop and promote Money Magazine, Fairfax seek an ambitious senior financial journalist to strengthen the editorial team.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate a proven record as a business journalist. Experience in the personal finance field would be an advantage, but is not essential. The successful applicant must, however, be able to demonstrate a firm grasp of the money issues affecting the private investor.

The salary package will be extremely competitive so as to attract a first class business magazine journalist. Please apply in writing with C.V. to:

Lorna Greene, Money Magazine, Thames House,
18 Park Street, London SE1 9EL

SKY MAGAZINE FEATURES EDITOR

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Ideally he or she will be aged 25-35, perhaps be a deputy features editor at the moment, who can work under pressure as well as generating it. This is an important position on a major new magazine, and this will be reflected by the salary offered.

Please write to:
Mike Roberts, Managing Editor, SKY Magazine,
Rex House, 4-12 Lower Regent Street, London SW1Y 4PE,
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Applicants should have extensive experience in this field and should be able to demonstrate ability, flair, leadership and interpersonal skills.

Application forms and further particulars from Miss L. McAllister, Headquarters Personnel Officer, Lothian Health Board, 11 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, EH3 7QQ. Closing date, 23rd April 1987. (Re-advertisement. Previous applicants need not re-apply.)

Lothian Health Board

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

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Secretary needed by Charity Director, as present PA is becoming PR Officer, to help support and assist growing young Charity. Lively atmosphere with fast pace and total involvement guaranteed. Good typing, shorthand and organisational skills essential.

Salary £29.00 per annum.

Please apply to Rebekah Selby, Contact A Family, 15 Stratton Ground, London SW1P 2HP. Tel: 01-222 2695/3969.

Contact A Family welcomes applications from all sections of the Community.

Closing date for applications Friday 24th April 1987.

Charity Recruitment

Use your Secretarial skills in Charities

We are a recruitment service set up to help you find jobs in voluntary organisations and charities - whether full time, part time or short term. We currently have posts registered with us for Secretaries, Personal Assistants and Typists, so if you have the right experience and are looking for a rewarding career move, register with us.

For further details of this free service, please fill in the coupon and return it to: Charity Recruitment, 12 Ravensbourne Gardens, London W15 8EW. Tel: 01-951 0094.

Name _____
Address _____
All information supplied will be treated in the strictest confidence.
Charity Recruitment encourages equal opportunities policies

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Secretaries

We'll Broaden Your Horizons

Tokyo ... La Paz ... Washington ... Singapore ... Cairo ... Canberra ... as a Secretary in the Diplomatic Service, these are just some of the cities to which you could be posted. After about 2 years in central London you could be sent anywhere around the world. It's an exciting, often unique role - with the opportunity of working at the centre of international events adding that extra career dimension.

A British citizen aged 18+, with at least 3 'O' levels (including English) and 3 years experience, you must have a minimum of 100 wpm shorthand or 120 wpm typing.

At home or abroad, you will enjoy a good career package including London starting salary of £7,672 rising to £8,891 (under review), plus an extra pay addition of £400, a skill supplement of £371 and proficiency allowances up to £1,240. In London, hotel accommodation can be arranged. Once overseas (aged 21+) you can look forward to free fully furnished accommodation plus an allowance to cover the extra cost of living where appropriate, and an allowance for language proficiency.

There will be opportunities to learn foreign languages and to transfer to the Executive grades on a salary scale to £10,817 and above. Opportunities also exist for shorthand typists aged 16+. Academic qualifications and experience not essential.

For further details and application form please contact:
Secretarial Recruitment, Personnel Policy Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Room 316, 3 Central Buildings, Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9NW. Tel: 01-210 8101/8122.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is an equal opportunities employer.

PERSONAL SECRETARIES

to BT's Senior Managers

TO £10,200 CENTRAL LONDON

We are the part of BT dedicated to supplying the UK Business Community with state-of-the-art network technology. It's an increasingly competitive market and our vast range of services - from massive Trunk Networks to the latest generation of Telex and Linkline are forging the way ahead.

To cope with our increasing diversity we are currently looking for more personal secretaries to our senior management. The brief is wide-ranging - from co-ordinating travel arrangements to planning diaries and meetings. In short you'll provide a comprehensive secretarial service which will make full use of your self-confident personality, good interpersonal skills and exceptional organisational ability. Needless to say, you'll need some evidence of qualifications.

British Telecom is an Equal Opportunities Employer

(RSA or Pimms preferably), with speeds of more than 45 wpm as well as shorthand/or audio skills. In addition, 4 'O' levels are required including English and Maths.

Are you ready to join us in our success? With an excellent salary and good prospects here's a chance to develop your career in one of the telecommunication industry's most dynamic areas. If you have the drive and enthusiasm we're looking for, call Jeanette Hirst on 01-356 7283 or write to her with your cv at: BT, SS Personnel, 8th Floor, 2-12 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7AG. Please quote ref: T12.

DAVID DAVIES ASSOCIATES

Marketing Secretary

One of the leading Design Consultancies in the country is looking for a young, capable and lively secretary to join its Marketing Team. An enthusiastic approach, combined with excellent shorthand and typing skills is essential. Salary Negotiable.

Interested applicants should apply with comprehensive CV to: Michelle Irving, David Davies Associates, 12 Goslett Yard, London WC2H 0EE.

D D A

From a P.A.

PA SECRETARY
£11,000-£12,000
PA NEG

Combine your administrative flair and excellent secretarial skills to become 'right arm' to this busy partner of lively architectural practices W1.

to a B.A.

UNIVERSITY DEGREES Earn a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctorate degree entirely from home using your academic life and work experience to date. Fully legal degrees are available in a wide variety of disciplines to experienced adults who seek recognition for their achievements. A thesis may be required depending on credits awarded.

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To place your advertisement telephone 01-491 4411

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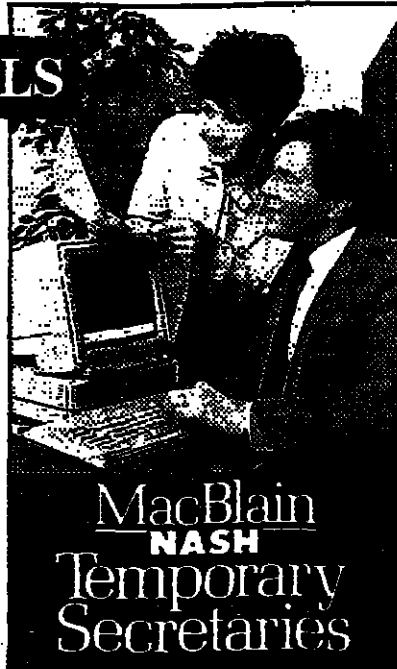
That's what we are, and that's what you could be too.

As one of London's leading temporary agencies for top level secretaries we can offer you a wide range of senior assignments.

We pay the full market rate and, in addition, offer a non contributory holiday pay scheme and free word processor cross training.

If you are a competent Secretary who wants to stay ahead of the rest, telephone Sally Dowson or Vanessa Horsfall.

Carrington House, 130 Regent Street, LONDON W1 Tel: 01-439 0601 (Entrance in Regent Place above Iberia Airways)



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NASH
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Executive Secretary

Potters Bar

Canada Life is a dynamic and expanding international organisation spanning the worlds of insurance, investment and finance.

We are now looking for a top class confidential secretary to provide a full secretarial and administrative service to one of our three Deputy General Managers.

You will already possess several years' senior secretarial experience (using shorthand) ideally gained in a similar environment where there is scope to demonstrate your initiative and independence. In addition, you will be expected to liaise with staff at all levels throughout the company therefore excellent interpersonal skills are essential.

We offer an excellent salary together with the benefits expected of a major financial company including a non-contributory pension scheme a free lunchtime.

Interested? If so please write with full career details or telephone for an application form to: Carol Pritchard, Personnel Adviser, Canada Life Assurance Company, Canada Life House, High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA. Tel: (0707) 51122. (24 hour ansaphone).

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TEMP

£14,000
Long term temp assignment (c.9 months) for a versatile secretary to assist 2 project managers in a major communications company. Hours are long - but in return the salary package is generous and the work varied. 100/50 and (pref) Wang WP.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
110000 STREET W1 01-439 0601

PA IN WC2

£11,500
Professionalism, dynamism, excellent training, generous benefits - these are all keywords in this major international firm. One of their senior executives needs a polished, articulate, numerate PA with senior level experience plus good audio typing and WP skills. Age guide: 25.

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PR

TO £10,000
Your abilities and enthusiasm will be well rewarded and recognised by this dynamic PR company. Supporting the senior account Director and assistant MD, you will be liaising extensively with clients, plus handling the company's printing requirements involving the approval of artwork. Typing: 55 wpm.

GRADUATE APPOINTMENTS
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INTERNATIONAL BANKING

WITH SPANISH
Prestigious International Bank has opened a new division in the West End with 25 staff. One of their Managers needs a secretary with good Spanish skills, 80/50 and initiative to organise his day. A real challenge for a young, smart person who enjoys meeting people and can work under pressure. The company offers a basic salary of £8,000 plus subsidised staff restaurant, season ticket loan and banking benefits.

LANGUAGE

TEMPORARY SUPPORT STAFF
Your languages are a valuable asset needed by interesting clients in the West End and City of London. Assist in myriad roles using a variety of skills. Learn and earn at the same time.

CAPITAL MARKETS

WITH GERMAN
Up to £14,000 + package
Large multinational Finance Company with office near Liverpool St is expanding rapidly. A newly recruited young dynamic executive needs a PA to run his affairs while he travels. Fluency in German and WP a must. Spanish useful. As you are equally dynamic. There will be scope for advancement for you. Up to £14,000 plus banking benefits is the right price for the right person.



International Secretaries

01-491 7100

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01-491 7100

PUBLISHING c.£10,000

This is the opportunity you've been waiting for to move into publishing and get away from a purely secretarial job. Working for the Chief Executive of this small but flourishing company in W1 which produces 2 magazines, you'll learn a great deal, get involved and even contribute ideas as well as attending meetings, shd/typ. (80/55) and organise a busy diary. If you're 24-30, a good all rounder, motivated with lots of initiative and are educated to 'A' level std. Please call:

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For an Area Manager of international company based in Wimbledon. Humorous and well organized person for challenging position in a marketing environment.

Salary £9,000 negotiable + benefits

Wing Carol Wally 01-491 8515 or 078 3188 or send cv to Top Right Secretaries 25 The Broadway Wimbledon SW19 1NE

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Graduate to £7,000

An exquisite way to begin your career in tasteful surroundings with this fine arts publishing company. Working with the editorial and research chiefs this job provides an understanding of the diversity and detail of the publishing business. Combine your love of the finer things with good office skills and lay the foundation to a successful future typing and shorthand (80/50) are required. Qualifications/interest in arts requested. Call 01-493 4466

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Medicine, Research, Biotechnology

Applications are invited for the central secretarial post in the Surgical Department (Unit 2) at St George's Hospital School to work closely with the Chairman of the Department. Professor John Hemmings-Taylor. As well as its research, the department has a major involvement in basic biomedical research in addition, the department has a rapidly growing interest in biotechnology and in interactions with industry.

The successful applicant should be an energetic, capable and organised person with a high level of secretarial skills. Must be able to cope competently and effectively in a very busy environment and be prepared to take responsibility. Salary in the range £7,204 to £9,860 (scale of London Allowances) according to qualifications and experience.

Further particulars and an application form from the Personnel Office St George's Hospital Medical School Centre, Tenth Floor SW17 0RE 01-872 1255 ext 5481. Closing date: 30th April 1987. Query telephone 43/57

PA/SECRETARY

Chairman of International Consulting Engineers with Head Office in London requires Personal Assistant/Secretary. This is a responsible position requiring a mature personality, a high standard in all the normal secretarial skills, the ability to deal tactfully with staff and clients and, at times, to work under pressure. Candidates should be able to work on their own initiative in handling normal secretarial duties, particularly during the Chairman's absence overseas, and to deal with non-technical correspondence.

The post is likely to suit candidates in the 30-45 age group with a minimum of 6 years' secretarial experience. Educational qualifications equivalent to 2 'A' level passes and a working knowledge of business French would be an advantage.

Working hours 9.00 to 5.30. Salary £11,500 to £12,000 pa dependent upon experience. Please apply by letter giving full details of training, qualifications and experience to:

Staff Manager
Peter Fraenkel International Ltd
Park House, 22 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BU

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO PLC DIRECTOR

I am looking for a PA who will deal with most of my daily correspondence and be able to use initiative on corporate and personal matters.

I have a team of 30 working directly with me in the City in a specialist area of business at Lloyd's.

You should be flexible and have the ability to organise corporate cocktail parties, charity events and have a good understanding of the political scene.

Essential qualities are a sense of humour, confidence to liaise with people at all levels, enthusiasm, reasonable shorthand, excellent typing - and a sense of humour!

Salary is negotiable and there are good fringe benefits.

Please send your CV to:
Miss Gilly Turner
Horace Clarkson PLC
12 Camomile Street, London EC3A 7BP

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PA TO THE CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY

£9,000 - £11,000
(under review)

To provide a comprehensive administrative and secretarial service for the Commission's Chairman and Secretary.

A mature and flexible approach is needed along with the ability to maintain confidentiality and act with discretion at all times. The postholder will be expected to participate in the full range of work covered by the Commission.

Good skills 80/100 and wordprocessing are essential. The salary includes inner London Weighting allowance. Non-contributory pension scheme. Your own office and car parking provided.

For an application form and further details please contact -

Miss Jane Harvey
Museums & Galleries Commission
7 St James's Square
London SW1V 4JH
(Tel: 01-839 9341)

Closing date: Friday 24 April 1987.

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As an experienced secretary with extensive knowledge of word processing, particularly IBM Displaywriter and Multimate, we can offer you:

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 - Overtime pay
 - A friendly professional service
 - A selection of London's top assignments
- To join our team of valued, high calibre secretaries, please call Camilla Arnold on 01-631 0479.

Seer Selection
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Required for Park Lane luxury Mercedes Benz dealers specialising in limousines to Royal Families and Heads of State worldwide. Age 20-30 years. Bookkeeping experience would be an advantage. Excellent salary for the right person. Send CV to: The Managing Director, Trasco Int. Plc, 65-67 Park Lane, London W1Y 3DF. Tel: 01-629 7779

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£7.00 p.h. - £12,740 pa

Temping today offers a wealth of opportunities - some of our team members are full-time professional temps. It isn't really surprising as we offer excellent hourly rates, a 'no-strings' holiday bonus and the opportunity to become very involved at senior level for a fascinating variety of clients.

Temping is also an excellent way to explore the permanent market, so if you're looking for a job or are keen to be well rewarded as a respected, professional temp, please telephone us now. You will need speeds of 100/60, proficient WP skills and 2 years' director level secretarial experience in London.

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Professional secretarial recruitment as dedicated to your career as you are.

SECRETARY

c. £8,500

This busy European headquarters of a leading worldwide music publishing Company urgently require a shorthand secretary aged 22+, for a newly created position. The work entails a wide variety of duties and involves liaising with affiliates in other European countries.

You should be able to use plenty of initiative and work calmly under pressure. Knowledge of wordprocessing essential.

Please send your C.V. to:
Jane Parvin
SBK SONGS
INTERNATIONAL
3-5 Rathbone Place
London W1P 1DA



COLLEGE LEAVERS

FOR THE KINGS ROAD

Group of young trendy Estate Agents Kings Road are looking for a bright enthusiastic College Leaver Secretary. Varied and busy positions including client contact.

Salary £6,800

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No. 55, First floor in Finsbury

EXECUTIVE/CITY RECEPTIONIST

£10,000 + £1,000 clothing allowance

No typing or switchboard required. Booking conference rooms, organising travel arrangements and greeting visitors warmly are all part of your busy day. The working environment of this large International Company near Bank is superb and immediate presentation will be much appreciated. Aged 23-30.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No. 55, First floor in Finsbury

IN THE MARKETS

c£11,500 + 2 bonuses

This rapidly expanding company which provides 'bi-weekly' information services seeks a secretary to the Chairman. He travels a lot so you will ensure the smooth running of the office - supervise junior staff, deal with confidential matters and all administrative duties. 90/60 skills and WP experience.

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£10,000 neg

Join this famous name family as social secretary. Organise a busy diary, committees and social functions based in a luxurious private home. You will also attend social events on occasions, with lots of liaison with VIP's. 80/50 skills and a clean driving licence required.

Please telephone 01 240 3551.

Elizabeth Hunt

Recruitment Consultants

2 Bow Lane London EC4

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With 100/60 wpm and a working knowledge of word processors. Long or short term assignments available NOW. Telephone 01-439 0601.

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SECRETARY
C. £8.500

01-737 6211

LA CRÈME

MACEWORTH

The leading Sports Promoter in London is looking for a person to assist in the running of several sports events around the year. We are looking for somebody who is bright, energetic, organized, and who can work on their own initiative. Good salary and pension offered. If you think you are the right person for the job, please send your CV to the Maceworth office, 23 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7NU. Salary circa £25,000 + perks.

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Required for private international research centre. To strengthen support for research staff and to be right hand to an Assistant Director. Auto but no SH required. Education to A level desirable. Sound WP experience essential. Knowledge of French an advantage. Preferred age 25-30. Apply: Staff Director ISS, 23 Tavistock Street, London WC2E 7NU.

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For highly successful, fast-paced, award-winning Recruitment Division of leading London Advertising Agency, based in the heart of London's West End. You must have plenty of Recruitment experience (preferably gained within an agency) accurate typing, outgoing personality and the ability to work really well under pressure. Lots of client contact so super communications skills vital.

New business gains have created this excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic ambitious person. We need you NOW so telephone

Liz Goodchild/Vivian Barrie on 01-408 1819 BASTABLE-DAILEY Advertising & Marketing 18 Dering Street, London W1R 0AX

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Senior Negotiator/Manager

Self-motivated, ability to work under pressure and responsibility are the key elements of this challenging position.

Telephone 01-944 9446 or write with CV to: Personal Dept, 273 High Rd, Chiswick, London W4 6PL.

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Cheerful and energetic negotiator required for our hectic lettings department based in Little Venice. Experience not necessary but must be a 'team' person. Telephone immediately: Sharon Bojm on 01-286 4632.

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APPLS Assistant urgently required for Appleby Department, National Charity. Central London. A crucial position as part of a small, fast-growing, committed team running national campaign. Responsible for running the department, assisting in the development of the department, and ensuring the highest standards of service. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have experience in the charity sector. Apply in writing with CV to: Appleby, National Charity, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0EL.

RECEPTIONIST in our £25,000. A busy central reception/telephone position. Excellent opportunity for a young person with good communication skills. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have experience in the charity sector. Apply in writing with CV to: Appleby, National Charity, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0EL.

RESEARCHER/Analyst with computer skills for corporate research. Must have excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must have experience in the charity sector. Apply in writing with CV to: Appleby, National Charity, 100 Strand, London WC2R 0EL.

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SUPER SECRETARIES

Churchill Clinic
80 Lambeth Road, London SE1 7PW

Medical Secretary

Part-time Medical Secretary required in the Out-Patient Department of this 80 bedded private hospital. The Department consists of 6 consulting rooms, an X-ray and Magnetic Resonance Imaging Department. The successful applicant should be willing and self-motivated and preferably with experience in radiological secretarial work.

Salary £9,500 pro rata negotiable. For job description and application form please telephone Kate Douglas on 01-928 5633 ext. 238. For an informal discussion contact Margaret Godfrey on ext. 208.

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We are looking for an efficient secretary for our Rights Manager. Accurate typing and meticulous attention to detail are essential. You must be willing to use a comprehensive computer system and shorthand is desirable. Salary negotiable.

Please send your CV to Susan Binney, Granada Television International Limited, 36 Golden Square, London W1R 4AH.

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There is always a premium on a water view from a property, as houses and flats along the River Thames prove, and although it may not be such a valuable asset in money terms in the country, it is an attraction which gives it the edge over its neighbour.

On the Tusmore Park estate of 1,566 acres near Bicester, Oxfordshire, the lake covers more than six acres to the west of the house. Tusmore House was built in 1963 by the 2nd Lord Bicester, one of the most distinguished country houses built since the war and occupying the site of a house built in 1766.

The lake is of considerably older pedigree, constructed in Elizabethan times, and is a beautiful feature of the 27 acres of grounds, attracting a wide variety of waterfowl.

The house has four reception rooms, a library and billiard room, eight bedrooms, a self-contained maisonette - and a squash court with a viewing gallery. The former stables were converted in 1986 to form a secondary residence, the Clock House, with five bedrooms and a nursery wing.

There are 18 cottages on the estate and the main farm has a farmhouse and 852 acres. In addition, there are woodlands and an excellent shoot, and two let farms. Savills is asking for offers around £4.5 million.

With Drewett-Neate, Savills is also offering Hall Place at West Meon, Hampshire, very much smaller than Tusmore Park, but considered one of the finest small estates in the country. It may not have a lake, but the gardens of about



Lakeside luxury: Tusmore House, built by Lord Bicester. The date 1965

28 acres sweep down to the banks of the River Meon within the grounds. The Meon offers potential trout fishing and provides the all-important water attraction.

The house dates from 1677 but is predominantly Queen Anne, and has four reception rooms, eight main bedrooms, six secondary bedrooms, a staff annex and a gardener's cottage. With the main house is a tenanted farm of 255 acres and a detached cottage, and the estate is for sale as a whole or in four lots, with a guide price of more than £1.4 million for the whole.

Although such estates might be expected to have a lake or river, lakeside

properties are not easy to find in the New Forest. A rare example - the Pheasantry, Boldre, near Lymington - has come on to the market through Jackson & Jackson, of Lymington, and Smith Walker, of Salisbury.

It is a contemporary country house, built in 1963, in a lakeside setting amid grounds of 17 acres in the village of Boldre. The grounds are a fine feature of the property, boasting extensive woodland and lawns running down to the lake. The house has five bedrooms and three reception rooms, and all the accommodation is on one floor, with a large games room opening on to the terrace and swimming pool below. The price is £550,000.

Youlston Park, at Shirwell, near

Barnstaple, north Devon, is one of the county's great houses. It is Grade I listed and has a courtyard plan thought to date from 1516. Its glory is the wing added about 1715, containing fine carving and plasterwork, and further altered in the mid-18th century. This splendid historic mansion house has been structurally restored. It has a reception hall and four reception rooms, with provision for three main bedroom suites and five further bedrooms, and a nursery suite on the second floor.

There is a Georgian stable block, and the gardens and grounds of 21 acres include a lake of three-quarters of an acre, 1515, containing fine carving and plasterwork, and further altered in the mid-18th century.

Grove Farmhouse in the village of Melbury Abbas, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, would suit a conservationist. The house, Grade II listed, is a Georgian building dating from 1799 which has been substantially refurbished in the past 10 years. It has three reception rooms, a 40 studio and five bedrooms.

There are extensive outbuildings in the 14 acres, which include woodland, a stream, watercress beds and a lake. John Sharp, of Humbers' Shaftesbury office, which is selling the house, says the previous two owners have carefully promoted the planting of trees in order to encourage wildlife of particular interest to the conservationist. There is fishing in the lake and nearby chalk stream, and the agents are asking for offers around £225,000.

The delights of old-established lakes encourage their retention in modern developments, and at Marchwood Gate, in Summerville, Chichester, West Sussex, a lake has duly taken its place. This development of apartments and houses combines the style of classical Georgian town houses with views over the Downs towards the Goodwood estate. The Downland City Partnership, part of the Downland Estates Group, has built a mix of three-bedroom apartments and two-storey three-bedroom houses.

The development has a specially landscaped lake at its heart and Downland, in the cause of conservation, is encouraging swans, ducks and other wildlife to nest and settle there. The price range from £99,500 to £160,000 (Details: 0243 774448).



Also 1965: The Pheasantry at Boldre, Hampshire, amid woods and lawns



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Law Report April 8 1987

Gangster cannot plead duress

Regina v Sharp

Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Fargher and Mr Justice Goff (judgment April 7).

A person could not avail himself of the defence of duress where he voluntarily joined a criminal organization or gang which he knew might bring pressure on him to commit an offence and was an active member when he was put under such pressure.

The Court of Appeal so held when giving judgment dismissing an appeal by David Bruce Sharp, aged 25, from conviction at Reading Crown Court (Mr Justice Kenneth Jones and a jury) of manslaughter after being charged with murder of a sub-postmaster at Wraybury, near Staines. He had pleaded guilty to attempted robbery of a sub-post office at Hounslow and to a count of robbery. He received sentences totalling 16 years' imprisonment.

Mr Nigel Mylne, QC and Mr Stephen Smyth, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant, Mr Daniel Hollis, QC and Mr Anthony Longden for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant and co-defendants Alderson and Hussey, both armed with sawn-off shotguns held up the sub-post office in Hounslow. As Hussey went to threaten the sub-postmaster's wife, the sub-postmaster hit the alarm. All three ran off to the gateway car empty handed.

Hussey tried to fire his gun in the air to prevent any pursuit.

He failed at first but then the gun went off and a pellet hit Alderson in the ear. The importance was that both the appellant and Alderson must have known that any attempt in future by an unlucky postmaster to push the alarm button would be viewed with disfavour by Hussey to say the least.

Having previously recognized the Wraybury sub-post office, the appellant, Alderson and Hussey carried out a robbery of the sub-postmaster's wife and Hussey went to the post office area of the shop. There Hussey shot the sub-postmaster in the head at close range. He died instantly and as he fell money scattered. Alderson hit the sub-postmaster's wife on the head with his gun. Hussey picked up about £400 and they fled to Hussey's own car.

Hussey was convicted of murder. Alderson first denied any involvement but went on to make full admissions. He knew the guns were loaded.

The appellant had been invited to join the robberies and had agreed. He was just the "bagman". Hussey was the "muscle". The appellant did not want weapons to be used. He panicked when he saw the guns were loaded in the car although he believed they were blanks.

He wanted to pull out and lost his nerve, but carried on because Hussey pointed a gun at him and threatened to blow his head off if he did not. He believed Hussey said and was scared.

Everything in the appeal de-

pendent on whether the judge was correct or not in ruling that a defendant who voluntarily joined such a gang with knowledge that he was likely to be subjected to violent compulsion if he attempted to resist could subsequently rely on a defence of duress.

No one could question that, if a person could avoid the effects of duress by escaping from the threats without damage to himself, he must do so. It seemed to be part of the same argument to say that a man must not voluntarily put himself in a position where he was likely to be subjected to such compulsion.

Mr Mylne had referred to *R v Tyrer* (1968) 8 C & P 616 and a further passage from Professor Glanville Williams' *Criminal Law* (1961) 2nd edition (p751f) which did not seem to advance the argument one way or the other.

Their Lordships were fortified in their view that that was and always had been part of the common law by passages in the speeches of Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest, Lord Wilberforce and Lord Simon of Glaisdale in *Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland v Lynch* (1975) AC 653.

Although *Lynch* had been subject to certain adverse comments since then, the passages had not been the subject of adverse comment.

Hussey was the archetypal "gangster-tyrant" referred to by Lord Morris. Mr Mylne submitted that Lord Kilbrandon's view in *Lynch* to the contrary was the correct one and it was not for their Lordships to extend the judicial interpretation of

what he now submitted was the present state of the common law.

Their Lordships drew assistance from the fact that Common Law and common-law jurisdictions throughout the world had adopted that rule almost unanimously, which was an indication that it might well have been throughout a principle of the common law.

In *R v Hurley and Murray* (1967) VR 526 Chief Justice Windey, presiding in the Supreme Court of Victoria, held (2) whether or not the matters raised by M could amount to a defence of duress, that defence was not available to him in the present case because he had voluntarily, and without any threat to himself, joined in the criminal enterprise and could not excuse his conduct by showing that he had subsequently been subjected to threats of violence to ensure that he did not withdraw from the enterprise.

Their Lordships were fortified that that was part of the law of this country in view of the judgment of Lord Lowry, Lord Chief Justice, in *R v Fitzpatrick* (1977) NI 20, 22, 23, 26.

Their Lordships were, therefore, of the opinion that the judge was correct in his decision. In other words, where a person had voluntarily and with knowledge of its nature joined a criminal organization or gang which he knew might bring pressure on him to commit an offence and was an active member when he was put under such pressure, he could not avail himself of the defence of duress.

The appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Headquarters.

Insolvency court users Railways board under group is formed a duty to consult

Practice Statement (Insolvency)

An Insolvency Court Users' Committee has been set up to assist with the practical difficulties likely to arise as a result of the substantial amount of recent legislation on company and personal insolvency and the recent revision of the procedures affecting insolvency litigation in both the High Court and the county court. Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, said that the committee would be set up to assist with the necessary remedial action.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR said that the committee would operate as a clearing house through which practical difficulties arising either in the High Court or the county court could be aired and which could put in train the necessary remedial action.

The following were represented: the Insolvency Practitioners Association; the Law Society; the Chancery Bar; Department of Trade and Industry; Lord Chancellor's Department; Official Receivers; Chancery Judges; High Court registrars; County Court registrars.

The secretary of the committee was Mr Dominic

Hartley, Chancery Chambers, Royal Courts of Justice.

It was hoped that anyone encountering practical problems as a result of the rules or practice of the High Court or the county court in insolvency matters would bring the problem to the attention of the committee.

Members of the professional bodies represented on the committee should communicate with their professional bodies. Others should communicate with the secretary of the committee.

His Lordship emphasized that the purpose of the committee was to remedy practical problems encountered by practitioners and the general public in the course of using the insolvency courts.

Although, no doubt, the committee would recommend any changes in the legislation necessary to remedy any practical difficulties, its function was not to review the substantive law as such.

Therefore practitioners and members of the public should limit their communications with the committee to matters of practical difficulty as opposed to suggested changes to the underlying law.

Regina v British Railways Board, Ex parte Bradford Metropolitan City Council

Before Mr Justice Kennedy (Judgment April 6)

When the British Railways Board discontinued all passenger services on a section of track and it could reasonably be envisaged that there would be a significant difference in the passenger service provided, the board was obliged to give notice to the area committee and undergo the consultative process required under section 56 of the Transport Act 1962 on any proposal to "discontinue" all railway passenger services from any station or on any line.

Mr Justice Kennedy so held in granting an application for judicial review to the City of Bradford Metropolitan Council and making a declaration against a decision of the British Railways Board to close a 750-yard section of track between Wortley South Junction and Wortley North Junction known as the Wortley Curve without giving appropriate notice.

Mr David Keene, QC and Mr Nicholas Huskinson for Bradford; Mr Jules Sher, QC and Mr Charles Turnbull for the board.

MR JUSTICE KENNEDY said the issue was whether the withdrawal of passenger services from the Wortley Curve was a discontinuance of services on a "line" and therefore subject to the provisions of section 56(7).

Unfortunately, the statute did not define the word "line". Clearly it could not simply mean a section of track, otherwise absurd results would ensue. As for example where there were no passengers, only one of which would be to be lifted.

The phrase "discontinue all railway passenger services on any line" must mean a discontinuance of services over a section of track which might give rise to significant hardship. A change of track involved could be long or short.

In the present case it was short but, as the effect of closing the Wortley Curve was to increase the journey time between London and Bradford by 17 minutes, the potential for hardship was not small.

The three subsections which began with section 56(7) were all concerned with providing a procedure to enable the minister to decide whether the hardship likely to be suffered by persons who objected to the proposed closure would be outweighed by the benefits which the closure was expected to bring about; so if it could not reasonably be envisaged that there would be any significant hardship it was then no notice need be given.

But in every other case if all passenger services on a line (that was to say on a section of track) were to be discontinued, then notice had to be given, and the board had to face up to the possibility that objectors would avail themselves of the rights which Parliament had given them.

Solicitors: Mr A. R. Sykes, Bradford; Mr S. K. Osborne, St. Pancras.

Government grant a revenue and not capital receipt for tax

Ryan (Inspector of Taxes) v Crabtree Denims Ltd

Before Mr Justice Hoffmann (Judgment April 2)

A government grant paid to a company "to keep business alive" and thus maintain employment was a revenue and not a capital receipt for the purposes of computing corporation tax liability.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by the Crown from a determination by West Morley general commissioners that £47,000 described as an "interest relief grant" paid under Part II of the Industry Act 1973 was to be treated as a revenue receipt in the hands of the taxpayer company, Crabtree Denims Ltd.

Mr Alan Moses for the Crown; the taxpayer company did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that the issue was whether £47,000 paid to the taxpayer company by the Department of Trade and Industry in March 1973 under section 7 of the Industry Act 1973 was to be treated as a revenue receipt for the purposes of computing liability to corporation tax.

Although described as an "interest relief grant" and calculated on the basis of a

national loan being made to the taxpayer company, it was clear that the DTI took very little interest in whether the taxpayer company borrowed or not. In practice it was payment of £47,000 by the Government to the taxpayer company.

The commissioners found that the payment was linked to any loan and that its purpose was to "keep business alive and thus maintain employment". Relying on the decision of the House of Lords in *Seaham Harbour Dock Co v Crank* (1930) 16 TC 333 and distinguishing that of *Burman v Thorn Domestic Appliances (Electrical) Ltd* (1952) STC 179, they concluded that the payment was to be regarded as received by the taxpayer company on capital account.

In so finding the commissioners had given wider effect to the *Seaham Harbour* case than was justifiable. Payments made under section 7 of the 1973 Act could be made for purposes which might be consistent with their receipt on either capital or revenue account.

What happened therefore when a payment was not expressly appropriated to a capital or revenue account had been considered by Mr Justice Walton in *Poulter v Gaydon Process Ltd* (The Times January 23, 1985; STC 174) where payments by way of government

subsidy that were undifferentiated as between capital and revenue purposes but which were intended to maintain employment were held to be trading receipts of the company. Here the £47,000 was an undifferentiated payment which fell to be treated as a revenue receipt by the taxpayer company. The Crown's appeal was allowed.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Advocates' duty to note the judgment

Letts v Letts

question of an appeal: see Practice Direction (Appeals: Documentation) (The Times October 25, 1986; 1986) 1 WLR 1318.

It should not be the case that inquiries were first made of the judge. Inquiries should be made of the judge only if it was known that he had a full record of the judgment.

The case illustrated the advantages to judges in county courts of asking the Lord Chancellor's Department for small dictating machines which could be switched on when about to give judgment. They were becoming available, and would contribute greatly to reducing the delays in bringing appeals.

Television personalities spar over sport's eternal question

Traffic jam sparks a quest to determine who is the greatest

A traffic jam on the M1 is an unlikely birthplace for a television programme, but that was the origin of a new sports series which begins on ITV next Wednesday. Called *Who's The Greatest?*, it is part pub argument, part crown court drama. In each programme the case for two sporting greats from the same sport but different eras is put by two well-known personalities. Each side is allowed to support its case with film clips and two witnesses. At the end of the programme, a jury of 12 selected from the audience give their verdict on who is the greatest.

The idea behind the series is so ancient and simple it is a wonder it has not been adapted for television before. However, it took the combined efforts of Norman Giller, a journalist, Jimmy Greaves, one of the greats, and a queue of traffic just north of the Watford Gap to make the quantum leap from bar-room debate to prime-time television.

Stuck in the jam with Greaves and passing the time with football talk, Giller suggested that Kevin Keegan was a better footballer than George Best. Greaves nearly swallowed his pipe. The argument progressed about as far as the traffic until both parties decided they needed a jury to settle the issue. Then TV took the idea from there, ran a pilot programme, in which Michael Parkinson put the case of his mate, Best, and the entertainer, Tom O'Connor, a lifelong Everton supporter, switched allegiance to advocate Keegan's cause, and then set up the first series of seven programmes.

The juries will have some tough verdicts to give during the next few weeks. Will Lester Piggott a better jockey than Sir Gordon Richards? John McEnroe superior to Rod Laver or Sir Gary Sobers a more brilliant all-rounder than Ian Botham? And they will be harangued by some persuasive advocates, including Frank (not Willie) Carson for Sir Gordon, Gloria Hunniford for Rocket Rod and David Frost for Gey the Gorilla.

ITV hope this mixture of pub chat, show-biz glamour and sporting suspense will provide the long-awaited riposte to the BBC's *A Question of Sport*.

"We want the programme to



Keegan



McEnroe



Botham



Best



Greaves



Sobers

be fun," the producer, John Taylor, says. "These are serious arguments but hopefully presented in an enjoyable way." The first programme, scheduled for 8.30pm next Wednesday, could justifiably have been called *The Question of Sport*. It considers, as judge Brian Moore observes in his opening remarks, "the biggest argument of all": Was Muhammad Ali or Rocky Marciano the greatest heavyweight?

The Mouth against The Rock. It would have been the classic contest: tall versus short (Marciano was only 5ft 11in and weighed just 13½st), the Louisville Lip against the quiet man from Brockton, the boxer versus the fighter. If Ali

beated like a butterfly and stung like a bee, Marciano rumbled like a bulldozer and stuck like a sledgehammer. Only six of his 49 opponents survived the distance: 11 did not make it through the first three minutes.

The audience of boxing supporters at the recording of the programme recently witnessed almost as big a contrast in the styles of the seconds: Eamonn Andrews, the old pro, unruffled and unharmed in his presentation of Marciano's case, and Dennis Waterman, using all his actor's powers of

emotion, delivering the evidence for Ali.

Andrews had been at ringside to describe Marciano's butchery of the Battersea Blacksmith, Don Cockell, in 1955, when Ali was just 13. Waterman, whose late brother was a European welterweight champion, had watched Ali for the first time when he was 15 and has been a devotee ever since.

Their evidence rained in on the jury as fast as the blows on the video screen. No one beat Marciano in 49 fights. Jab. Ali lost five out of 61. Jab. Ali won the title three times. Jab. Marciano fought has-beens. Jab.

Witnesses were called and cross-examined. Brian London, Henry Cooper and Johnny Williams, who would have fought The Rock himself had he not lost to Cockell, won seven titles between them and, apart from the odd blunt nose, show no scars and not much extra weight. A sad contrast to Ali, though no one dared say it. What would have been the deciding factor in this imaginary fight of the century? Marciano's all-action crouching style, said Mr "Enery" "If I could knock him (Ali) down, he could." Ali's speed, said Brian London: "I never laid a

glove on him in three rounds," Marciano's savagery, said Williams. Ali's bravery, argued Reg Gutteridge, ITV's boxing commentator. "Remember Ali in his prime." Punch and counter-punch, the verbal contest raged.

In the end, the programme is simply an excuse to marvel. To watch Ali at his peak, swaying and skipping away from Liston's big punches, anyone of which could have sent him to oblivion, is to know the beauty and danger of sport. To watch Marciano's clubbing of the veterans, Archie Moore and Ezzard Charles, is to know the violence of it.

The computer, asked who was the greatest many years ago, replied Marciano, in 10 rounds. Juries are less predictable. Michael Parkinson thought he had the case for Best wrapped up and lost the verdict 11-1.

Either way, ITV feel they are onto a winner. "We are very hopeful that this will be the first of many series. There is no limit to the subjects you can cover," the producer, Taylor, says. And if it does run and run, maybe he will look back and reflect that it did so from a standing start.

Andrew Longmore

GOLF

Kite unveils a Masters plan

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Augusta

As a former high school chess champion, Tom Kite has the kind of analytical mind that is suited for winning the US Masters. For the secret of conquering the Augusta National Course, where the event has been played since 1934, is in having the ability to plot one or two moves ahead. There are target areas on the magnificent, palatial fairways from where it is advantageous to approach the tormenting and undulating greens, and the key is to find the correct side of the hole so leaving an uphill stroke and reducing the pressure on the putt.

Kite first played at Augusta as an amateur in 1971. He has been out of the top 10 only twice in his 12 attempts as a professional. He was runner-up to Severiano Ballesteros in 1983, and to Jack Nicklaus 12 months ago. It is an astonishing record, the type one associates with a Hogan or a Snead, a Palmer or a Nicklaus, but not with a Kite.

The one flaw, as far as Kite is concerned, is that he has not won the US Masters. At the age of 37, he is in danger of becoming the first player of his generation to move through his career without a major championship, let alone a US Masters.

Kite fervently disagrees that he could desert the ways of the world rich but not famous. Even so it has escaped most people's memory that he did indeed share second place with Greg Norman last year. More-

over it was Kite who might have destroyed the Nicklaus dream if his 12-foot putt had not slid agonizingly past the hole for a birdie at the 18th that would have produced a play-off.

"I don't get the feeling that what I did has been forgotten," Kite said. "I did everything that I could, as well as I could, but sometimes it just does not all

Crenshaw's home town of Austin, Texas. "I got distraught at times being compared with Ben," Kite said. "Worse still, it seemed at times that you were either Ben's friend or Tom's enemy. I couldn't understand why some people couldn't pull for both of us."

Golf, of course, has on the whole been good to Kite. He has won \$3 million in US Tour prizes alone. Even so, he is not a five-times Open champion like Tom Watson or globally respected like a Johnny Miller or a Lee Trevino. He will never be a Jack Nicklaus.

Kite, however, is unquestionably an excellent player, with one of the most economical of swings, and he would surely settle for one major championship victory. "Of course I want to win one, like anyone else in the game, and I would like it to be the Masters," he said.

"Everything I've done has led me towards that goal. I'm still learning, although at the same time I have to be realistic and say that I don't have that many more great opportunities. But if I play as well in the next seven years as I did last year, then I'm sure I will win one."

"I know there is pressure in wanting to win the Masters, but you can't back away from that. Your time is to get into contention and to put the pressure on yourself. The only way not to be under pressure is to pack your bags and go home. And that wouldn't accomplish anything."

Kite's US Masters professional record

Year	Position	Score	Total
1973	1st and 10th	72-74-71-69	286
1976	2nd	73-67-72-73	285
1977	1st	70-71-74-68	283
1978	1st	71-74-71-71	287
1979	5th	71-72-68-72	283
1980	1st	69-71-74-68	282
1981	1st	74-72-70-68	284
1982	2nd	70-69-73-69	281
1983	2nd	70-72-73-69	284
1984	2nd	70-68-69-73	280
1985	2nd	70-68-69-73	280
1986	2nd	70-74-68-68	280

work out right. It does not mean to say that people have forgotten what I did. I did play to finish joint second."

Yet as Kite's love affair with the Augusta National course has grown, so there has been the odd difference of opinion which has stopped him from consummating the relationship with a victory. In 1984 he led by one shot entering the final round, but he took a six at the short 12th and Ben Crenshaw moved past him.

In fact it has not always been easy being Tom Kite. He grew up in the shadow of Crenshaw after moving at the age of 11 to

TABLE TENNIS

Times of change for ETTA

By a Correspondent

The revolution that is changing the image of English table tennis gathered pace last week when a chief executive was appointed for the first time. Ted Wallbank, the marketing manager of Squash Rackets Association, will start his new job on June 1.

This is a step towards which the English Table Tennis Association (ETTA), aware of the urgent need to adopt a more professional approach to the running and promotion of the sport, have worked for years.

Especially significant is that it has come at a time when upheavals are going on in other areas. Preen recently announced that he was removing the national director of coaching and disbanding the selectors, giving responsibility for both roles to Donald Parker, the England coach.

He has more surprises in store. At the national council meeting on April 11, Preen is expected to put forward new nominations for four of the five existing vice-chairmen. If these go through, the only survivor will be Alan Ransome.

Sports Letters

From this week Sports Letters will be published on Thursdays.

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John rejects all reports that he is to sell Watford

By Andrew Longmore

Elton John, the chairman of Watford Football Club, yesterday dismissed reports that he intends to sell the club whose fortunes he has masterminded for the last 10 years. A statement released through his record company described the story that he had started negotiations to sell but hoped to stay on as a Watford director as "absolute rubbish". The statement went on: "Football is one of the passions of Elton's life and he has no intention of giving up the Watford chairmanship."

During his 10-year tenure as chairman, the flamboyant musician has invested more than £3 million in the club, putting up interest-free loans to help build the £2.2 million stand at Vicarage Road to accommodate Watford's meteoric rise from the fourth to the first division. The rumours of the sale, which were also dismissed by secretary, Eddie Plumley, could not have come at a worse time for the club as they prepare for Saturday's FA Cup semi-final with Tottenham at Villa Park.

However, the manager, Graham Taylor, who was linked with the management of Everton in the same report, and the Watford players denied that these rumours had upset the team. "From the footballing point of view these reports are not disruptive at all. If they were, then we would be less than professional," Taylor said.

What must be worrying the likeable Taylor more is the team's patchy form in their build-up to their second semi-final in three years, including their worst home defeat of the season on Monday evening, 3-0 against Queen's Park Rangers.

"I was disappointed with the way our heads went down," Taylor said. "We played as if the game was all over after we went 2-0 down and that's very unlike us. I can assure you there won't be any of that on Saturday."

The only injury worry for Watford concerns the mid-field player, Kenny Jackett, who coincidentally missed the semi-final against Plymouth in 1984 through injury. He twisted a knee and it is not responding to treatment, although Taylor is still optimistic that he will play. "Kenny is very important to us because we are a bit lightweight in the middle of the field, but we won our last semi-final without him so maybe it's good luck," Taylor said.

Attention leading up to the

semi-final will inevitably centre on Steve Sherwood, aged 33, whose last visit to Wembley remains a nightmare. On that occasion he was severely criticized for the goal by Andy Gray which put paid to Watford's Cup chances.

Now he has been recalled from the wilderness of reserve team football to face another testing examination of his nerve after a broken thumb, received while stopping a shot from Mark Falco in training, had ruled out the regular goalkeeper, Tony Coton. In four games this season, Sherwood has conceded 13 goals, including seven in the last three games. "There is a lot of pressure on me," he said. "But I really am looking forward to the game and if I can get a good save under my belt in the first few minutes, I'm sure it will be all right."

Watford moved to their training camp at Lillishall, where the long-term future of the club will not be uppermost in their minds, but the short-term problem of stopping the free-scoring Tottenham team will, Graham Taylor might remind them of the last match they played before the 1984 semi-final. They lost 6-1 to Norwich.

League to assist Robson

The Football League are ready to help England's bid to qualify for next summer's European Championship finals. England play Yugoslavia on November 11 and the manager, Bobby Robson, wants the first division programme on November 7 to be postponed if the qualifying result is crucial to his team's hopes. First division clubs were told of Robson's request at a divisional meeting at Tottenham's White Hart Lane ground yesterday.

The League secretary, Graham Kelly, said: "The situation may not arise because England will hopefully have qualified by then. The League's management committee will consider it as and when we need to, but we would not want to stand in the way of England qualifying for West Germany. We will give them every possible assistance."

A precedent for postponing a Saturday first division programme was set during England's 1992 World Cup qualifying campaign.

The League may also be abolishing extra time in the second leg of the Littlewoods Cup semi-final because they feel it gives the home side an unfair advantage. Kelly said: "We feel that extra time gives an undue advantage to the home club in the second leg."

Newcastle hope to remain unchanged

Newcastle, unbeaten in their last five games, hope to be unchanged for the visit of Norwich tonight. England's forwards, Peter Beardsley (ankle) and Paul Goddard (Achilles tendon), plus the Republic of Ireland international defender, John Anderson (foot), went back into full training yesterday.

Although the right back, Neil McDonald, was sent home again with a chest infection, the manager, Willie McFaul, insisted that it was a precaution and he would play. The Irish midfielder player, David McCreery, who has a knee injury, remains the one serious doubt.

Meanwhile, Norwich wait on the fitness of the midfielder player, Trevor Putney, before naming their side for the match. Putney has a back injury. Wayne Higgins stands by.

West Ham, already without the suspended forward, Frank McAvennie, have worries over the goalkeeper, Phil Parkes. Stewart Robson and captain, Bonds, for today's Arsenal Park derby against Arsenal. Parkes is under treatment for an infected elbow injury which could halt a run of 85 successive League games.

Tom McAlister stands by for a first outing in exactly two years. His last appearance was at Queen's Park Rangers on

April 8, 1985, when he was carried off with a punctured lung and fractured ribs.

Like Bonds, Robson is suffering from a heavy cold which could prevent him playing against his old club colleagues for the first time since last January's £700,000 move across London. All three face late checks and the manager, John Lyall, names a 16-strong squad as a precaution. Liam Brady, however, is certain to face Arsenal for the first time since he left Highbury.

Leeds, the FA Cup semi-finalists, will field their top side for the important second division game away to their Yorkshire rivals, Hull, today. With Sunday's Cup opponents, Coventry, relaxing at Bournemouth, Leeds are plunged into a crucial rearranged League match against opponents struggling in the relegation zone.

Derby will be without their goalkeeper, Mark Wallington, for at least half of their remaining eight matches during the run-in towards promotion in the second division. A Upton Park derby against Watford, which was postponed, will be a night hand and ordered him to rest in plaster for another fortnight, ruling him out of today's game at home to Huddersfield as well as their next three fixtures against Stoke, Bradford and Blackburn.

History beckons Leonard

From Srikumar Sen
Boxing Correspondent
Las Vegas

The "Superfight" between Sugar Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler that was supposed to settle arguments once and for all about which of the two is better only made matters worse in the bars after Leonard won the World Boxing Council (WBC) middleweight title on a split decision at Caesars Palace Arena on Monday night.

Two judges had made it 115 points to 113 (seven rounds to five), one to Leonard and one to Hagler. A third judge, Jo Jo Guerra, from Mexico, scored the bout 115-110 (eight rounds to two) in favour of Leonard.

That last score was so outrageous that it made the final outcome quite inconclusive for the purposes of argument and, immediately after the fight, punters and the press were engaging in verbal fistfights trying to sort it out. In the end they went their ways, split down the middle.

Hagler thought he had won and said: "Man, they stole my title. Leonard told me 'You beat me'."

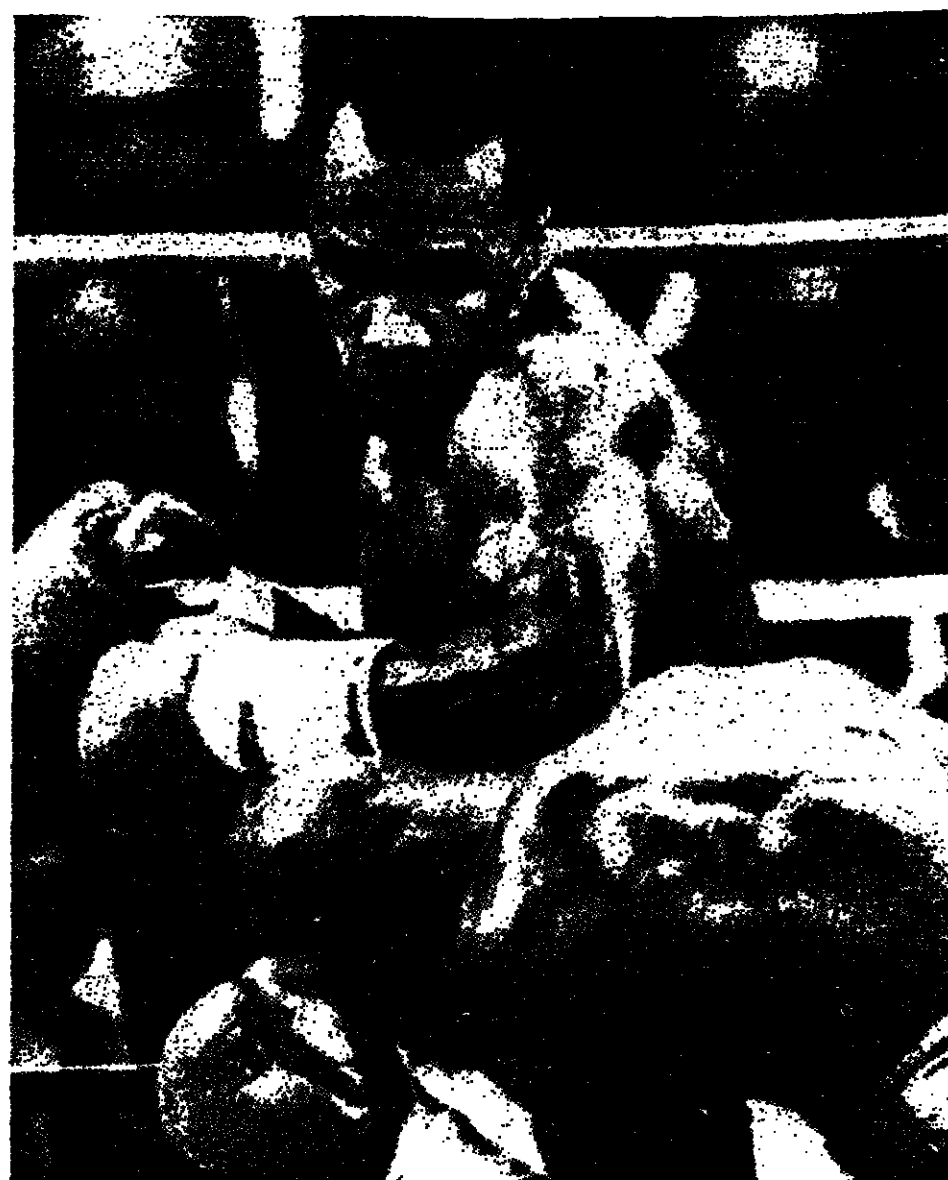
Leonard may now meet Hearns

Leonard told his cheering supporters in the 15,400 capacity crowd "I'll be back in six months, fifteen pounds heavier," meaning that he would be back to meet Thomas Hearns for the WBC light-heavyweight title, but then retreated somewhat later when he said: "I only wanted to beat Hagler - now I can go home and rest."

But back home in Potomac, Maryland, Leonard will be restless about the talk of a Superfight II with Hearns. If that bout took place both men would be boxing for a place in history as the first man to win world titles at four different weights.

Leonard's business manager, Mike Trainer, said that Leonard would make a decision on a bout against Hearns in two weeks' time. If Leonard remains true to his word and is not tempted with an offer of \$20 million (about £12.5 million) Hearns and Hagler could meet again. The winner could then try to persuade Leonard to come out of retirement a third time.

One's outlook on the result on Monday night depends on whether one likes a boxer or a fighter; a man who hits and runs or one who does and chases; the man who lands more stinging blows or the one



A champion again: Leonard (facing) makes Hagler bow to his superior tactics

who lands fewer but heavier punches; showboating or no-nonsense; the funky chicken or strict tempo.

The argument will rage: "Nobody wins running away like Leonard" - "boxing is about aggression. Hagler did all the chasing" - "but he was not landing. Leonard was quickly in and out" - "Leonard's shots were taps, they don't count" - "if they were taps then why didn't Hagler walk through and nail him, so there."

A computer tried to settle the argument by revealing that Hagler threw 792 punches and landed 291, 37 per cent, and Leonard threw 629 and landed 306, 49 per cent. It made the Hagler men more angry. Most of Leonard's blows were delivered on the retreat as Hagler missed with the big ones. But Leonard is the only boxer in the world who is as positive going back as going forward.

So the criticism of running away cannot be levelled at him.

On other scores, too, Hagler failed to impress. He did not box like the champion he has been. Instead of standing his ground and asking Leonard to come and get the title Hagler decided to go chasing after Leonard and for the first four rounds just could not find him.

Leonard popped up under him, behind him, by his ears, under his nose and cuffed and mocked him.

Round after round, Hagler followed throwing bombs past Leonard's head. As one observer said: "Hagler was locked into the knock-out mode and could not get out of it." Hagler swore at Leonard (I cannot repeat what he called him, the referee, Richard Steel, said) and called him a cissy. But Leonard, remembering that he had been taunted into a scrap with Roberto Duran in their first meeting, refused to

engage in a toe-to-toe battle.

He paced himself smartly in every round. He boxed only one and a half of the three minutes. He opened with quick footwork and finished with fast handwork. In between he held or ran.

Leonard walked the first four rounds but, as he began to feel the effects of his four and a half years' inactivity, from the fifth his feet were stuck to the floor and Hagler began to get to him. In the fifth a right upper-cut turned his legs to gummy sticks. But somehow Hagler and his corner did not realize how effective the upper-cut was and he hardly used it again when it was plain that this was the punch which was needed. So many times Hagler had Leonard in a corner but every time he tried to knock his block off with right and left hooks most of which either missed or were glancing blows.

Hagler's best chance came in the ninth when Leonard was engaged in a toe-to-toe battle. He paced himself smartly in every round. He boxed only one and a half of the three minutes. He opened with quick footwork and finished with fast handwork. In between he held or ran.

pinned in his own corner and Hagler was hitting him freely with both hands. It seemed all over but again Hagler could not connect solidly with all those punches. He was either tiring himself or was unable to plant his feet long enough on the floor for sufficient leverage. As Angelo Dundee, Leonard's strategist, said afterwards: "The secret of the win was to keep Hagler off balance. He was stumbling after Ray like a novice sometimes."

Though Leonard lost the ninth round it was his most magnificent moment as he bit his lip and fought his way out of the corner with a blur of hands that had Hagler still facing the corner pads while his victim was running to the other side of the ring. Hagler went after him but in his hurry to catch up with the cheeky challenger he took mighty swings at him and found himself spinning round with his own momentum.

By the twelfth Hagler's best shots had been thrown and Leonard believed he had done enough to win if he only he could stay on his feet. He returned to the showboating. Hagler chased, Leonard boxed and ran and even turned cheekily to his supporters in the crowd and asked them to cheer.

Diligence defeated by a dilettante

In the end the dilettante won. The achiever and technician was left wondering what all his grafting in five years had really amounted to when Leonard was sitting outside the ring in a tuxedo doing commentaries.

While Leonard fought the correct fight and achieved the impossible in pulling out of the past some of the dazzling footwork, hand speed and changes of pace and direction which made him one of the greatest welterweights, it was not a great contest. In the final analysis it was two ageing fighters trying to impose their will on each other and in the process revealing that they were really spent forces.

Leonard collected yet another honour by joining the growing band of boxers who have won three titles but it was really not much more than those college graduates who stay on to collect degree after degree and for all their brains are able to do little to change the world. The boxing world will not change either. There will be calls for Superfight II, III, IV, V and more.

Nicklaus seeks seventh Masters title

From Mitchell Platts, Golf Correspondent, Augusta

The one American who will breathe a huge sigh of relief, should Jack Nicklaus lose his US Masters title here this week, is the postman in the community of Lost Tree Village in North Palm Beach, Florida.

Since Nicklaus won the US Masters last year for a record sixth time he has been inundated with mail. "It rained in after I won and I've been getting it all over again recently," Nicklaus said yesterday. "The same people who wrote congratulating me have been saying: 'Go out and do it again'."

The chances are that will not happen. In truth it is a risky business, as was proved at Augusta National last year, eliminating Nicklaus from the contest before a shot has been struck. Yet as he says: "I can't

play like I used to, but once in a while I can get it altogether."

Nicklaus has been getting it together on the professional fairways of the world since the end of 1961, when he turned his back on a \$24,000-a-year job in the insurance business and, at the advice of Mark McCormack, turned to golf to make his living. McCormack promised Nicklaus that he would make a minimum of \$100,000 in his first season.

Nicklaus's victory in 1962 in the US Open meant that McCormack's prediction represented nothing less than short change.

The curtain had risen for Nicklaus to take command of the stage and to become arguably the finest golfer in the history of the game. He was not immediately a favourite of the crowds, who taunted

the podgy Nicklaus with cries of "Fat Jack" as he had the audacity to challenge the American idol, Arnold Palmer. Nicklaus, however, shed weight, showed that he was human, and so became the American gallery's hero.

His measured play and increasing maturity combined to enable him to play, as Bobby Jones, the creator of Augusta National, once said: "A game of which I am not familiar." Nicklaus has failed to win four major championships in one year, as Jones did in 1930, but he has collected 20 in all with his six US Masters (1963-65-66-72-75-86), five US PGA Championships (1963-71-73-75-80), four US Opens (1962-67-72-80), three British Opens (1966-70-78), and two US Amateur championships (1959-61).

If he has one regret it is only that on turning professional the dean of the Ohio State University informed Nicklaus that he would need to drop out of the college. "He said he didn't want a registered student being publicized as playing all over the world," Nicklaus said. "It was the decision I disagreed with and fought bitterly. It's the only thing in my life that I've ever started and didn't finish."

In essence, that explains the perfectionist attitude which has got Nicklaus to where he is today. He even reduced his schedule back in 1978 so as to maintain his full interest in playing the game. He said: "I play now a sufficient number of events to get me in shape for the major championships. There is nothing that can replace the pleasure of win-

ning a golf tournament but the fact is I get a big kick out of creating a golf course and knowing that it will exist long after my career, and my life, is over."

Even so the most important thing on Nicklaus's mind right now is to win his seventh US Masters title. He believes that a recent swing change will help, and he revealed that he is now wearing contact lenses. "My depth perception is better, although I still don't see the ball hard. But I put that down at Augusta to being totally colour-blind to green."

So the Master of Augusta finally let slip that all these years there really was most point in giving him the winner's green jacket. Not that he will say no to another on Sunday.

Kite's Masters plan, page 39



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FISA head hears plea by drivers

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) - In an eleven hour attempt to dissuade formula one drivers from scuttling Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, Bernie Ecclestone, vice-president of the International Auto Sports Federation (FISA) was due here today for talks on the super-licence fee dispute.

Ecclestone will be representing the FISA president, Jean-Marie Balestre, when he meets the drivers, who are incensed over the potentially-stiff increases. They have threatened to go on strike.

"Our position (the drivers) remains the same," Alain Prost, the world champion said. "We all want to drive in Rio, but we are not going to pay extras."

The surtax, retrospective to last season, would entail a driver of Prost's calibre paying a total of 77,000 French francs (£8,000). If all the drivers refuse to pay then the Brazilian Grand Prix, the opening event of the season, would be cancelled.

Circus revs up, page 39

Nicholas goes on the attack

Mark Nicholas, the captain of Hampshire, yesterday declared himself an opponent of cricket's transfer spiral, even though he tried desperately to sign Graham Dilley, the England fast bowler, in January.

Nicholas said: "On the first day of the Test against Australia in Sydney, Dilley said he would join us if he was not going to re-sign for Kent, but then Worcestershire came in with an incredible offer. I have to say, though, that I am against any transfer system in cricket. It is an integral part of the game to support the locality."

US stud to back race

Three Chimneys Farm, of Midway, Kentucky, one of America's most successful studs, are to sponsor the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket for the next three years.

The race will be Britain's richest event for two-year-olds, carrying £125,000 in total prize-money.

Coach axed

Milan (AP) - Nils Liedholm, the veteran Swede rated as one of the world's leading football coaches, resigned yesterday from AC Milan following a showdown with Silvio Berlusconi, the president. Milan have had a string of disappointing performances in the Italian championship and lost 2-1 to Avellino on Sunday. Fabio Capello, the former Italian international, will be the team's new coach.

Pearce foiled

David Pearce, the former British heavyweight champion who has been banned by the British Boxing Board of Control on medical grounds, has had his unlicensed fight against Lloyd Watford cancelled by the committee at the Pent social club in Newbridge, Gwent.

US stud to back race



Benoit: strained thigh

Benoit blow

Joan Benoit-Samuelson, the Olympic champion, has withdrawn from the Boston marathon on April 20 with a strained thigh muscle. Despite being two months pregnant, Miss Benoit was running in the United States marathon trial in Pittsburgh next year, although two days ago The Athletics Congress conceded that from January 1, women can qualify for the trial for Seoul by completing a half marathon inside 76min or a 10km in 33min.

Czech out

Washington (AFP) - Jan Cado, the Czech triple jumper who went missing after last month's world indoor athletics championships in Indianapolis, has asked to stay in the United States.

Tough hand

Basle (AFP) - Marco Bozzola, of Italy, sent off for knocking out Gunnar Petersen, of Norway, in the world handball championship earlier this year has been banned for 18 months - the longest ever suspension outside drugs-related cases.

Seoul team

Britain are sending a team of eight to the World Marathon Cup in Seoul - the venue of next year's Olympics - on April 11 and 12. With the Boston and London races a month later, some leading names are missing, although Sally Ellis, the national cross-country runner-up, and Maureen Hurst, the 1985 Paris marathon winner, and Sandra Brannan, the Glasgow marathon winner, will take part in the women's race. Taisuke Kodama, of Japan, the world's third-fastest marathon runner and Ahmed Saleh, of Djibouti, sixth in the world rankings, will take part in the men's race.

BRITISH TEAM: Men: I Ellis (Newport), P Hurst (Barnet), L Richardson (Edinburgh), D Long (Covey), Women: S Ellis (Worcester), M Hurst (Clayton), S Brannan (Victoria Park), S Halsey (Houghton).

Split decision

Brisbane (AP) - Brian Jansen, of Australia, scored a 12-round split-decision victory over Judas Clotey, of Ghana, to take the vacant Commonwealth welterweight boxing title.

Badminton Horse Trials cancelled

By Jenny MacArthur

The weather has forced the cancellation of the Badminton Horse Trials for the first time in 21 years. Colonel Frank Weldon, the director of the Trials, which were due to begin tomorrow, made the decision yesterday morning after consultation with the Duke of Beaufort, owner of the estate.

It was not possible to postpone the event because it would interfere with the farming of the Badminton estate and because of difficulty finding an alternative date in an already-crowded horse trials calendar.

According to Colonel Weldon, the horses would have been quite safe to compete. It was the damage which the cars and the 250,000 spectators, which were expected, would have done to the wooded park which forced the cancellation.

Running the event just for the competitors was not feasible because Badminton would still incur the £300,000 it costs to stage.

Under the event's insurance policy, Badminton will get back its expenses and the British Horse Society, which annually receives around £100,000 from Badminton's profits, will also receive about £75,000 from a separate policy. The operators of the 250 trade stands, a major attrac-

tion for the spectators, will get their fee back as will the 20 companies who took hospitality units.

The cancellation deprives the British selectors of the major trial upon which they base their selections. A good result at Badminton is traditionally a sure way of being shortlisted for the British team for the European championships in August. The selectors will meet this weekend for a "radical re-think."

For the riders the immediate problem is what to do with horses fit and ready to compete a three-day event, James Mackie, the executive officer to the selection committee, has been inundated with telephone calls from riders wanting to compete in three-day events overseas. Punchtown in Ireland (May 14-18) and Stockholm, Sweden (June 11-14) being most popular.

Organizers of the Stow Park Horse Trials, on in two weeks, are trying to run an extra advanced class to accommodate some of the Badminton horses.

Virginia Leng, the world champion, is to take her horses, Murphy Himself and Knight Cap to the Bilton and King's Somborne Horse Trials. Bruce Davidson, who has come from the United States especially for Badminton was "devastated" at the news.